

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 83/79

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

**on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 624/78) for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to edible caseins and caseinates**

**Rapporteur : Mr J.H. LAMBERTS**

122



By letter of 12 February 1979 the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to edible caseins and caseinates.

On 15 February 1979 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs for its opinion.

At its meeting of 21 February 1979 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr J. Lamberts rapporteur.

It considered the proposal at its meeting of 22 March 1979 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement on 2 April 1979.

Present: Mrs Krouwel-Vlam, chairman; Mr Lamberts, rapporteur; Mr Andersen, Mr Brown, Mr Dinesen (deputizing for Mr Didier), Mr Ellis, Mr Plebe, Lord St. Oswald, Mrs Squarcialupi, Mr Verhaegen and Mr Wawrzik.

The opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs is attached.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION.....	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	6
Opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs .....	7

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to edible caseins and caseinates

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 624/78),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 83/79),
1. Welcomes the fresh submission of a proposal which has been revised in the light of technical progress, designed to promote the free movement of edible caseins and caseinates in the Community;
  2. Refers to its resolution of 14 May 1970 on the original proposal;
  3. Approves the present proposal;
  4. Requests the Council to take an early decision on it.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 50, 24.2.1979, p. 5

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The object of this proposal is to introduce uniform Community legislation on caseins and caseinates intended for human consumption in order to remove the obstacles to trade in these products and to give consumers better health protection through the establishment of technical standards.
2. The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection can only welcome the introduction at Community level of essential legislation on the composition, hygiene criteria and microbiological specifications at the time of manufacture, of a number of permitted adjuvants or neutralizing agents and of general labelling legislation for caseins and caseinates. It stresses once again that consumer health protection should take precedence over the other considerations mentioned in the proposal.
3. It would point out, however, that basically this proposal brings into line with technical progress a much earlier proposal for a directive submitted to the Council which was adopted by the European Parliament in its resolution of 14 May 1970 on the basis of a report by Mr Boersma, tabled on behalf of the then Committee on Social Affairs and Public Health (Doc. 37/70).
4. The committee endorses this position and hopes that this time the Council can take an early decision on the proposal.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

Letter from the chairman to Mrs Krouwel-Vlam, chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

Luxembourg, 22 February 1979

Dear Mrs Krouwel-Vlam,

At its meeting of 20/21 February 1979 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs discussed the proposal for a Council directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to edible caseins and caseinates (Doc. 624/78).

The use of caseins and caseinates in foodstuffs intended for human consumption necessitates the definition of standards with respect to composition in order to protect consumers. The differences in national legislation and the resulting technical obstacles to trade point to the need for national legislation to be harmonized at Community level.

The first proposal from the Commission concerning the harmonization of legislation, which this proposal replaces, dates from 1970.

While not ignoring the procedural problems, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs has always supported any initiative aimed at harmonizing legislation in the interests of the common market. It therefore approves this proposal for a directive and urges the Council to adopt it as soon as possible.

I would ask you to regard the above as my committee's opinion, which was adopted unanimously, on the proposal for a directive.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Edgard Edouard PISANI

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Present: Mr Pisani, chairman; Mr Notenboom, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams and Mr Leonardi, vice-chairmen; Lord Ardwick, Mr Deschamps, Mr Jakobsen, Mr Lange, Mr Normanton, Mr Ripamonti, Mr Spinelli and Mr Starke

