

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

9 May 1978

DOCUMENT 116/78

446.32 +

449(51)

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture
on the proposals from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 493/77) for

- I. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No.804/68
on the common organization of the market in milk
and milk products
- II. a regulation relating to the Northern Ireland
"Milk Marketing Board"

Rapporteur : Mr M. HERBERT

1.2.3

PE 52.614/fin.

By letter of 13 January 1978, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- I. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products
- II. a regulation relating to the Northern Ireland Milk Marketing Board.

The President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on Agriculture.

At its meeting of 17 January 1978 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Herbert rapporteur.

The committee considered these proposals at its meetings of 27 and 28 April 1978 and 8 May 1978 and at the latter meeting adopted the motion for a resolution by 8 votes in favour with 4 abstentions.

Present : Mr Kofoed, chairman; Mr Ligios, vice-chairman; Mr Herbert, rapporteur; Mr Andersen, Mr Bersani (deputizing for Mr L'Estrange), Mr Bourdellès, Mr Brégégère, Mr Dewulf, Mr Früh, Mr Klinker, Mr Lemp and Mr Tolman.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally by the rapporteur.

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution :

NOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- I. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products
- II. a regulation relating to the Northern Ireland Milk Marketing Board

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(77) 725 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 493/77),
 - having regard to the Report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 116/78),
 - whereas the Common Agricultural Policy must seek to stabilize markets and seek a balance between production and consumption,
 - whereas it is in the interest of the Community to maintain and increase consumption of milk and milk products,
 - whereas the Community must assure the free circulation of agricultural produce within the Community,
 - whereas producer organizations provide an important means of increasing the efficiency of agricultural production and marketing,
1. Recalls that in certain respects the legal framework and function of United Kingdom milk marketing boards are incompatible with Community law;
 2. Considers that the high level of consumption of liquid milk in the United Kingdom is due to a distribution system which encourages sales, and not to the Milk Marketing Board;
 3. Points out that the Milk Marketing Board has a monopoly in the purchase of milk from producers;
 4. Fears that the restriction of the Board's activities to one Member State may lead to distortions of competition in trade in milk products within the Community ;

5. Considers it important that free trade must not be hindered;
6. Feels that the provisions of the Treaty and of the existing market organizations must be respected;
7. Calls for the early elimination of other obstacles to intra-Community trade in milk and milk products;
8. Asks the Commission to review its proposals taking into account the views expressed above.