

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

1975-1976

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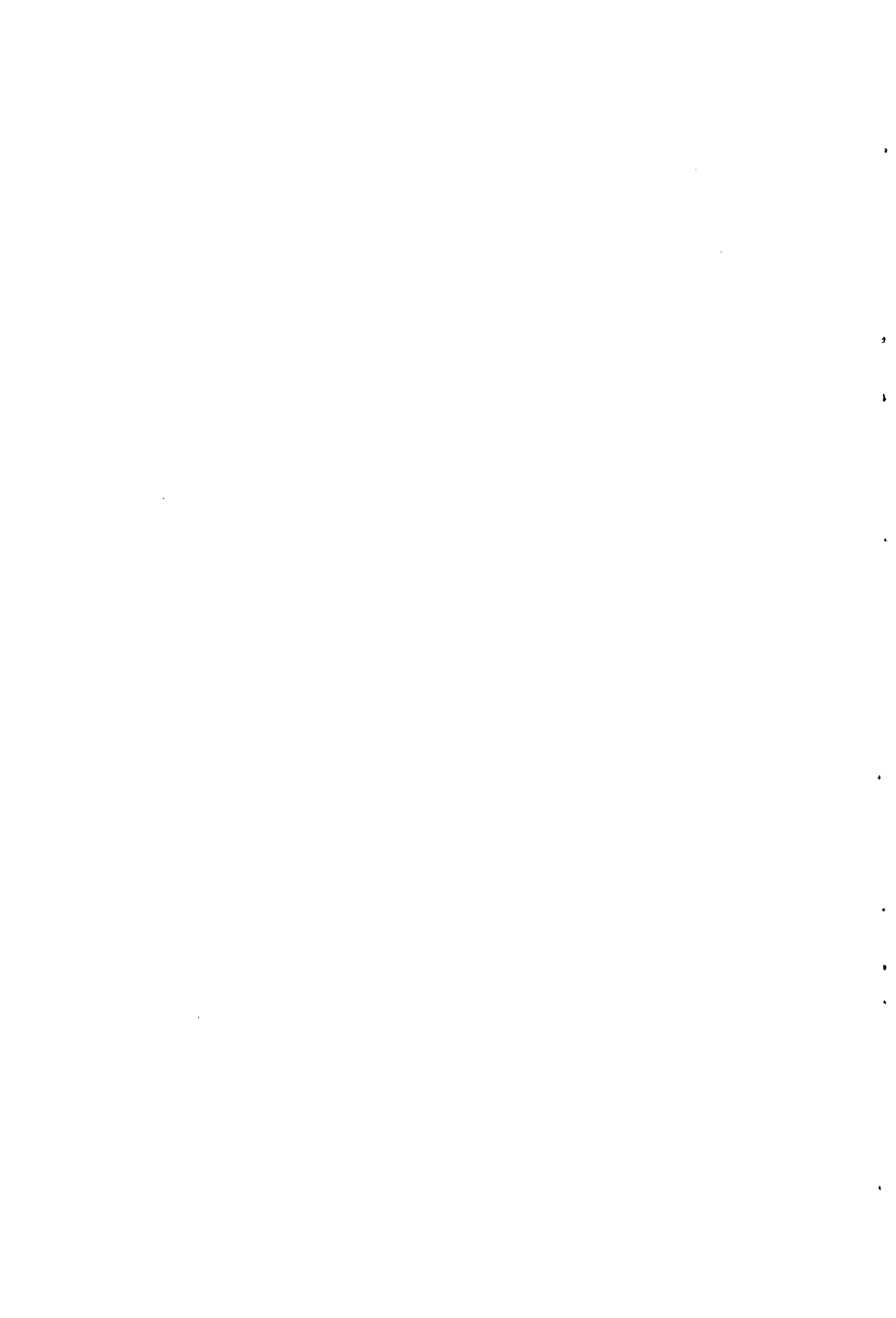
REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities (Doc. 413/75) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1411/71 as regards the ~~/~~fat content of whole milk

Rapporteur: Mr L. MARTENS

PE 43.157/fin.



By letter of 17 December 1975 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43(2) of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation modifying Regulation (EEC) No. 1411/71 as regards the fat content of whole milk.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Martens rapporteur on 17 December 1975.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 17 December 1975.

At the same meeting the committee adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement unanimously.

The following were present: Mr Houdet, Chairman; Mr Laban, Vice-chairman; Mr Martens, rapporteur; Mr Bourdelles, Mr Brégégère, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Howell, Mr Hunault, Mr Kofoed, Mr Liogier, Mr Scott-Hopkins, Lord St. Oswald, and Lord Walston.



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The Committee on Agriculture 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 regulation modifying Regulation (EEC) No. 1411/71 as regards the fat content of whole milk.

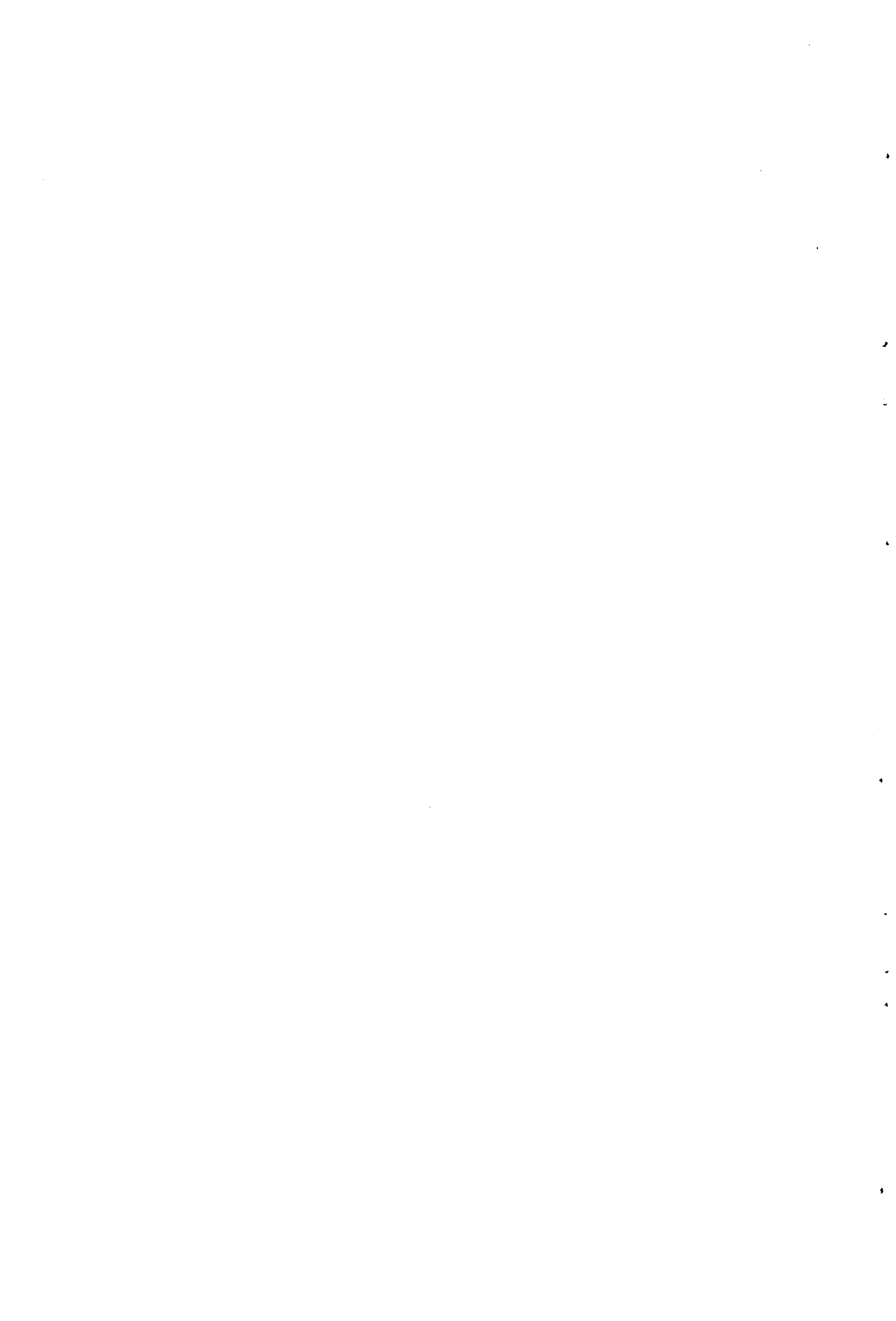
The European Parliament,

- 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 43(2) of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 413/75),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.456/75),

Approves the Commission's proposal to put back until 31 March 1976 the date for the introduction of a uniform fat content of whole milk.

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<sup>1</sup>OJ No. C 282, 10.12.1975, p.11



EXPLANATORY STATEMENTThe purpose of the Commission's proposal

1. Regulation No. 1411/71 laying down additional rules on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products<sup>1</sup> established standards for quality of milk to enable trade in this sector to develop to the fullest extent. It recognized, on the other hand, that interim derogations were required in order to allow for the smooth transition from national arrangements.

Accordingly, while Article 3(lb) of Regulation No. 1411/71 established that 'full cream milk' for direct consumption should have a fat content of at least 3.5%, Article 6(2) allowed Member States to maintain until 31 December 1973 existing national arrangements for full cream milk delivered to customers.

2. In the course of a special meeting of the Special Committee of Agriculture on 1 October 1973, the Belgian Delegation expressed the wish to see this date put back, to avoid, for reasons concerning conjunctural policy, an increase in the price of milk and a decrease in consumption. This request was received favourably by a number of other delegations.

Consequently, by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3478/73<sup>2</sup> this date was put back until 31 May 1974.

3. At that time, several delegations on Special Agricultural Committee have expressed the wish that the foreseen date of 1 June 1974 for the introduction of this new level of 3.5% should be further put back in order to avoid a price increase and a fall in consumption.

Accordingly the Commission proposed<sup>3</sup> that the entry into force of this provision be put back until 31 December 1975, the date until which a fat content lower than 3.5% is authorized in the United Kingdom under Article 89(1) of the Act of Accession.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. L 148, 3.7.1971; p.4.

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 357, 28.12.73; p.7.

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 99/74.

4. In the reports drawn up by Mr MARTENS on previous modifications to this time limit<sup>1</sup>, the European Parliament requested that the impact of an increase in the fat level of liquid milk on retail prices should be examined in greater detail. The Commission suggested that the proposed extension would allow such an examination to be undertaken.
  
5. However, this report has not yet been made available to the Committee on Agriculture. In these circumstances, the Committee on Agriculture has been unable to draw up an Opinion on the Commission's proposal for a regulation harmonizing the fat content of full cream milk<sup>2</sup>.
  
6. Consequently, it is necessary to extend the date of expiry of the transitional period in which Member States are authorized to maintain national provisions from 31 December 1975 to 31 March 1976.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 296/73, 13.12.1973 and Doc. 112/74, 31.5.1974

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 413/75