

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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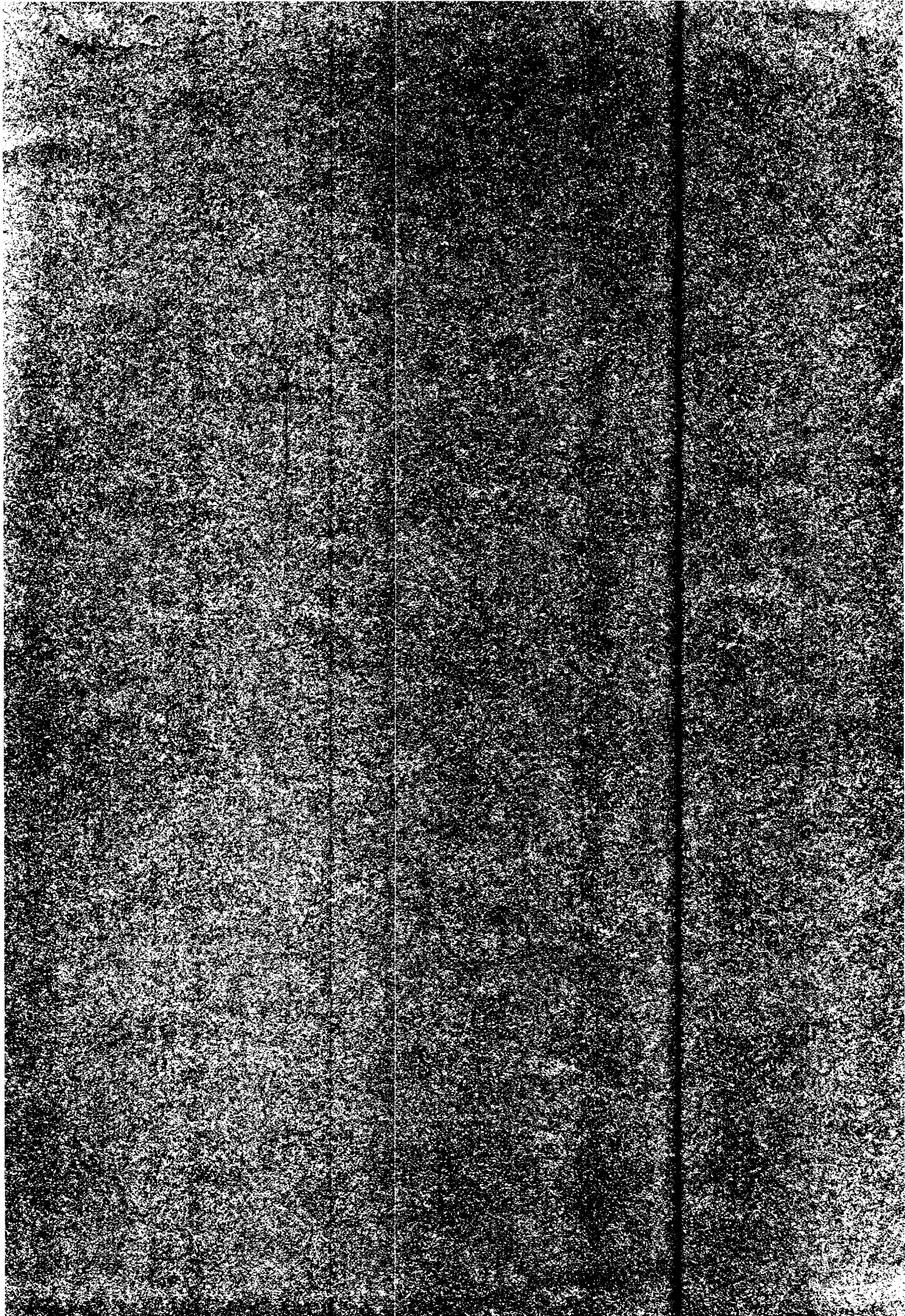
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Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION

authorizing the United Kingdom to grant a national aid to milk
producers in Northern Ireland

(submitted by the Commission to the Council)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

- I. Under Article 54 of the Act of Accession, the United Kingdom was authorized under certain conditions to retain production subsidies for a "standard quantity" of milk as part of the system of guaranteed prices. With the withdrawal of this system with effect from 1 January 1978 milk producers in Northern Ireland are in danger of being put at a serious disadvantage compared to producers in the rest of the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland is the only region in the United Kingdom where, for geographical and demographical reasons, most of the milk produced cannot be sold at a better net return for direct human consumption.

- II. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that, because of the different representative rates fixed for the pound sterling and the Irish pound, milk producers in Northern Ireland are particularly disadvantaged, also because of the fact that there is a monetary union between these two countries.

- III. In view of the economic and political situation in Northern Ireland, it is necessary to authorize the United Kingdom, by derogation from Article 24 (1) of the basic regulation (EEC) N° 804/68, to grant these producers a temporary national aid.

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

authorizing the United Kingdom to grant a national aid to milk producers in Northern Ireland

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee⁽²⁾,

Whereas under Article 54 of the Act of Accession, the United Kingdom is authorized, under certain conditions, to retain production subsidies for a "standard quantity" of milk as part of the system of guaranteed prices;

Whereas, with the withdrawal of this system with effect from 1 January 1978, milk producers in Northern Ireland are in danger of being put at a disadvantage compared to producers in the rest of the United Kingdom, since Northern Ireland is the only region thereof where, for geographical and demographical reasons, most of the milk produced cannot be sold for direct human consumption which produces better net return;

Whereas this situation is made worse by the fact that, because different representative rates have been fixed for the Irish pound and the pound sterling, milk producers in Northern Ireland are particularly affected by the resulting difference in income from milk production, and all the more so because there is a monetary union between these two countries;

whereas, by way of derogation from Article 24 (1) of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 804/68 of 27 June 1968 on the common

(1) OJ N° C.

(2) OJ N° C.

organization of the market in milk and milk products ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) N° 1038/78 ⁽⁴⁾ the United Kingdom should therefore be authorized to grant a temporary national aid for these producers in order to alleviate the said difficulties,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The United Kingdom is hereby authorized to grant milk producers in Northern Ireland, until the end of the 1978/79 milk year, an aid not exceeding 1,4 pence per litre of milk delivered to dairies.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

(3) OJ N° L 148, 28.6.1968, p. 13
(4) OJ N° L L34, 22.5.1978, P. 5

