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INFORMATION MEMO

Purity standards for preservatives

The Commission has submitted to the Council a proposal for a directive concerning standards of purity for preservatives in food.

The Council had already issued a directive containing a list of permitted preservatives (directive of November 1963). Member States must now bring their regulations into line with this directive and put the amended regulations into effect within two years from the date of notification, that is, by 7 November 1965 at the latest.

The present proposed directive also sets 7 November 1965 as the date by which Member States will have to apply to the preservatives permitted in food for human consumption the standards of purity which appear in the annex.

The proposal was drafted by leading specialists from the Scientific Committee and experts from the Member States who form a Working Party on Food Legislation with a sub-group on additives. The Committee on Agricultural and Food Industries of the Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE) and the European Community Consumers' Liaison Committee had an opportunity to express their views, and these were taken into account as far as possible by the experts.
