

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 463 final

Brussels, 6 September 1979

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

*concerning coordination of the positions of Member States in
respect of the meeting of the Commission of the Codex Alimentarius, Rome 1979*

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Subject : Coordination of the positions of Member States in respect
of the meeting of the Commission of the Codex Alimentarius, Rome 1979

Annex B of Code of Practice for Processed Meat Products

1. Following the last meeting of the Codex Commission in Rome the above draft was returned to the Committee for meat products in Copenhagen. As a result of this meeting a modified document was prepared which is compatible with Community legislation⁽¹⁾ and advanced to step 8 (AL 80/16 Annex II).

The document will be presented to the Codex Commission for acceptance at its next meeting in Rome, and it is in consequence necessary to coordinate the positions of Member States.

2. As the document is now drafted it appears compatible with Community legislation and the Community can have no objection to its acceptance. However, following a Commission meeting of experts on the subject fears were expressed that some third party may request changes of the section g. concerning packaging to a wording similar to that already figuring in the Code of Hygienic Practice for fresh meat. This would be a substantive change which could be accepted as a compromise without discussion on the understanding that it may be necessary to modify the Community Directive accordingly.
3. The Commission therefore proposes that :
 - A. a. Member States will make no objections to the Codex Commission if the present text of the draft is accepted.
 - b. Should a "third party" request a substantive modification to section g. for example :

"Where primary packaging follows slicing and cutting these operations should preferably take place in the same room under satisfactory conditions of hygiene. Other packaging should be carried out without delay in a separate room, however, it may take place in the same room

(1) O.J. No L 26 of 31.1.1977.

in which the products are sliced and packaged, provided precautions acceptable to the controlling authority are taken to prevent contamination of the product".

Member States will accept the proposal as a compromise.

- c. That there should be the usual on-the-spot coordination.
- B. If the possible course of action proposed in 3.b. above is adopted the Council agrees to adapt Council Directive 77/99/EEC to take account of this orientation following submission of a proposal by the Commission.