

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 17 final.

Brussels, 31 January 1979.

## First Commission report to the Council

on materials and articles containing vinyl  
chloride monomer and intended to come  
into contact with foodstuffs.

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FIRST COMMISSION REPORT ON MATERIALS AND ARTICLES  
CONTAINING VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER AND INTENDED TO  
COME INTO CONTACT WITH FOODSTUFFS

1. Article 4 of Directive 78/142/EEC<sup>1</sup> on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to materials and articles which contain vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) and are intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, provides that the Commission shall present to the Council, not later than 1 January 1979, a report drawn up in the light of scientific and technical knowledge becoming available after the adoption of the directive.

2. With a view to the preparation of this report, the Commission requested the Member State Governments and the professional and trade organizations concerned to provide any data which had become available in 1978 relating to:

- (a) the average value of the VCM content found in finished articles and in foodstuffs;
- (b) new research on toxicology and epidemiology;
- (c) any new applications, in connection with foodstuffs, of materials and articles containing VCM.

Furthermore, the Commission requested the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs to update its previously rendered opinion<sup>2,3,4</sup> on the potential hazards of the use, in contact with foodstuffs, of materials and articles containing VCM.

<sup>1</sup>OJ No L 44, 15.2.1978.

<sup>2</sup>Reports of the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs, 1st series, 1975.

<sup>3</sup>Summary record of the seventh meeting of the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs - Doc. VI/1422/76.

<sup>4</sup>Summary record of the fourteenth meeting of the Scientific Committee on Foodstuffs - Doc. III/577/77.

3. The data sent to the Commission can be summarized as follows:

- (a) the average value of the VCM content found in finished articles is well below the limit laid down in Directive 78/142/EEC;
- (b) in most of the foodstuffs examined, the presence of migrated VCM, within the meaning of Directive 78/142/EEC was not detected;
- (c) there are no significant new data as regards toxicological or epidemiological studies on VCM or as regards new applications of materials and articles containing VCM in contact with foodstuffs.

4. At its meeting of 28-29 September 1978, the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs confirmed its previous opinion and considered that the additional information received did not warrant any change in the position adopted.

5. In view of the information set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above the Commission does not feel called upon at the moment to propose any amendment to Directive 78/142/EEC.