

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1977 - 1978

15 DECEMBER 1977

DOCUMENT 455/77

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending for the sixth time the Council Directive of 23 October 1962 on the approximation of the rules of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (Doc. 426/77 - III)

Rapporteur: Mr H.-E. JAHN

By letter of 29 November 1977 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending for the sixth time the Council Directive of 23 October 1962 on the approximation of the rules of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

On 23 November 1977 the committee decided that the Commission's proposal be approved without report, pursuant to Rule 27A of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure. On 12 December 1977, at the request of one of its members, Parliament referred the draft directive back to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

At its meeting of 15 December 1977 the committee appointed first vice-chairman, Mr JAHN, rapporteur. At the same meeting it unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr AJELLO, chairman; Mr JAHN, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr DIDIER; Mrs DUNWOODY (deputizing for Mr BROWN); Mr EDWARDS, Mr EVANS, Mr GUERLIN, Mr KAVANAGH (deputizing for Mr BREGEGERE); Mr LAMBERTS, Lord MURRAY OF GRAVESEND (deputizing for Lady FISHER); Mrs SQUARCIALUPI and Mr VERONESI.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

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 directive amending for the sixth time the Council Directive of 23 October 1962 on the approximation of the rules of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(77) 609 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 426/77 - III),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 455/77),
1. Notes with displeasure the manner in which the Commission is putting Parliament under pressure by submitting its proposal for an amendment only a few weeks before the expiry of the transitional period for the new Member States;
 2. Emphasizes once again the importance it attaches to the adoption of rules on permitted colouring matters used in foodstuffs intended for human consumption in the context of its policies on health and consumer protection;
 3. Regrets, therefore, that the Commission is proposing that the number of permitted colouring matters be increased before the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs has taken any final decision on the colouring matters in question;
 4. Reminds the Commission of the reservations expressed by the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs with regard to the colouring matters listed in Annex II to the directive, especially Yellow 2 G;

5. Calls on the Commission not to give the Member States a general authorization to permit the use of the colouring matters listed in Annex II of the directive;
6. Insists rather that, in those countries where they are still permitted, further provisional use of these colouring matters should be authorized only on condition that the countries concerned take account of the recommendations of the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs and forward to the Commission a list of the foodstuffs in which these colouring matters are used;
7. Requests the Commission to incorporate the following amendments in its proposal, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty.

Proposed for a Council directive amending for the sixth time the Council Directive of 23 October 1962 on the approximation of the rules of the Member States concerning the colouring matters used in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

Preamble unchanged

Article 1

Article 2 of the Directive of 23 October 1962 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. By way of derogation from Article 1 Member States may authorize the use in foodstuffs of the substances listed in Annex II.
2. Within three years following notification of this Directive, the Commission shall re-examine the derogations in paragraph 1 and shall propose any necessary amendments to the Council.

Article 1

Article 2 of the Directive of 23 October 1962 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. By way of derogation from Article 1 Member States may authorize the further use in foodstuffs of the substances listed in Annex II insofar as they have been permitted hitherto.
2. Within two years following notification of this Directive, the Commission shall re-examine the derogations in paragraph 1 and shall propose any necessary amendments to the Council after consulting the Scientific Committee on Foodstuffs.

Articles 2 - 5 unchanged.

¹For complete text see Doc. 426/77 - III