

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 11 March 1988

## Report from the Commission

on the system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products in accordance with Article 8.2 of the Council Decision of 2 March 1984 (84/133/EEC)

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Proposal for a

## COUNCIL DECISION

amending Decision 84/133/EEC introducing a Community System for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products

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(presented by the Commission)

REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE SYSTEM FOR THE  
RAPID EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON DANGERS ARISING FROM THE USE OF CONSUMER  
PRODUCTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8.2 OF THE COUNCIL DECISION OF  
2 MARCH 1984 (84/133/EEC)

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Commission has prepared this report in order to comply with its obligations under Article 8.2 of the Decision which created the System. The Decision setting up the System was enacted for a period of four years and it was established that before the end of that period, the Commission, in the light of the experience obtained would present a report with proposals on the basis of which the Council might decide upon the continuation or revision of the System.

Before the expiration of that term and in the second year of operation of the System, the Council requested the Commission to present an interim report on the working of the System. This report (COM (86) 562 final) was approved by the Commission on 24 October 1986 and presented to the Council held on 29 October 1986; the Council in its conclusions welcomed the report of the Commission, underlined the importance of the System, endorsed the efforts made by the Commission for the operation and the improvement of the System and recommended that the Member States make full use of the network.

The Consultative Committee set up by the Decision assisted the Commission in the preparation of the present report and expressed itself broadly in favour of its contents and conclusions.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The preliminary programme of the European Community for a consumer protection and information policy<sup>1</sup> contained among the principles applicable in the field of protection of health and safety of consumers, one which stated that "goods and services offered to consumers must be such that, under normal or foreseeable conditions of use they present no risk to the health or safety of consumers. There should be quick and simple procedures for withdrawing them from the market in the event of their presenting such risks".

The second programme of the European Community for a consumer protection and information policy<sup>2</sup> retained the same principle. In that programme the Commission indicated that in order to comply with this and the other principles "the fullest and most objective information possible must be available on the various aspects of product safety". The Commission therefore proposed the creation of two systems: a long term surveillance system (EHLASS) designed to collect information on accidents other than

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1 O.J. No. C 92, 25.4.1975, p.1  
2 O.J. No.C 133, 3.6.1981, p.1

traffic and work accidents and a short term alarm system designed to cope with serious and immediate dangers; this is the Rapid Exchange System. Thus, the creation of the System represents a contribution towards the achievement of the above mentioned principle: consumer products put onto the market should present no risk to the health and safety of consumers. In the second programme it was stated that the System would enable the responsible authorities to take necessary measures promptly to ensure public safety. The fulfilment of these objectives constitutes the long term aim of the System which should be achieved with the adoption of a General Consumer Safety Directive. For the time being and with its present structure the System is only a first step in the creation of a full horizontal approach to product safety which would include Community adoption of safety measures.

### III. OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM

The Rapid Exchange System is used as a general short term surveillance and alarm system designed to cope with serious and immediate dangers. Member States notify through this System measures taken by them to prevent, restrict or attach particular conditions to the marketing or use or possible marketing or use on their territory of products because of the serious risk which those products present for the health or safety of consumers when used in normal and foreseeable conditions.

The System operates in accordance with the detailed procedures approved by the Commission on 31.7.1985 as provided for under Article 4 of the Decision. Member States set up contact points responsible for transmitting and receiving notifications from the Commission. The Commission itself also has a contact point for food products and a contact point for non-food products. Whenever a Member State adopts a measure to prevent, restrict, or attach particular conditions to the marketing or use of consumer products because of the risks they pose to consumers, it must notify the Commission. Standard forms have been jointly introduced by the Commission and the Member States for each sector, food and non-food. They are destined to serve as models for data to be communicated. The Commission, in turn, transmits that information to the other Member States, in order that they may take appropriate action in their territories. All Member States must report to the Commission on the action they have taken. It is especially provided for under the Decision that, "whenever possible, the producer, distributor or importer of the product shall be consulted". Prior consultation is not only a valuable means of checking the available information but has also a very positive preventive effect: producers and importers may voluntarily take action by recalling or withdrawing products when approached by the competent authorities even in cases in which the risk is not established to an extent that would allow action to be taken by Member States. Prior consultation also permits to avoid unnecessary conflict between producers or importers and the authorities.

Article 2 of the Decision establishes that the System covers all products intended for use by consumers except those intended exclusively for professional use and those which under other Community instruments are the subject of equivalent notification procedures. Food products fall within the field of application of the Decision. The informal Rapid Exchange System for foodstuffs already in operation from 1978, has been maintained following the declaration inserted in the minutes of the proceedings of the Council meeting where the Decision 84/133/EEC was adopted.

The food products network operates with the following structure:

- A network of points of contact which consists of responsible persons from the food-products sectors of Member States and of the Commission.
- A "red" telephone, that is a direct line installed in the relevant "Food-products" service at the Commission as well as a telex link used by the contact point in each Member State to send information directly to the Commission. The Commission evaluates the information received and is able to automatically transmit the message received to the other contact points.

The above situation is reflected in point 1 of the detailed procedures which state:

"Food products are also covered by the Council Decision. However, since the informal system set up some years ago in this sector functions satisfactorily it should be maintained and the names, addresses and telephone and telex numbers of the persons responsible for transmitting and receiving information remain unchanged. In practical terms, the existing system therefore, continues as before."

Consequently, all legal obligations deriving from the Decision are equally and without any distinction applicable to food and non-food products. The necessary coordination between both networks is assured and notifications received by each network are exchanged.

The Decision created a Consultative Committee which assists the Commission in the implementation and the management of the System. The Consultative Committee has met 8 times since its creation. Recently its field of activity has been enlarged by the adoption by the Council of the Directive of 25 June 1987 (87/357/EEC) on Dangerous Imitations<sup>3</sup>, which in Article 4 provides that the Committee may be consulted in connection with the application of the Directive, at the request of the Commission or of a Member State.

As a result of discussions held in the Consultative Committee, the Commission asked Member States to provide information on how they dealt with notifications received through the System. The information received shows that the way notifications are dealt with varies considerably between Member States, owing to differences in the responsibilities, powers and structures of the authorities responsible. However, in general terms, all Member States follow the following steps:

1. The contact point in the national authority designated under Article 5 (normally a Ministry) decides which other Ministry or Ministries are competent to deal with the notification. If there is no other body to accept the file, it is dealt with by the national authority itself (B, DK, EL).
2. A check on the market is then carried out to ascertain whether the product is on sale. In Portugal, enquiry is also made of the customs department to know if there is any record of the product being imported. In the case of certain countries (B - for certain product

areas - EL, F, IRL, I, LUX, NL, P, UK) the national authority has at its disposal an Inspectorate which is able to make this check throughout the territory of the Member State.

3. If and when the notified product is found on sale, most countries have it tested for the reported danger in an official or officially approved laboratory. If the danger is confirmed, subsequent action depends on the legal powers available.
4. In certain countries (DK, D, EL, ESP, F, IRL, I, LUX, P, UK), any consumer product can be either temporarily blocked or banned as appropriate. In others (B, NL), this power only extends to certain categories of products which causes problems when action needs to be taken concerning non-regulated products. In the Netherlands no power exists to order withdrawal of stocks from the market, but the products may be blocked at wholesalers or seized. In the Federal republic of Germany the power to block has certain limitations concerning the withdrawal of products from shops.  
No Member State has adopted any regulation specifically to implement the Decision 84/133/EEC, although Spain and Greece have such a measure in preparation, which includes the setting up of a similar network at national level linking regional and national authorities.
5. As concerns the closing of the file, two approaches exist. One is that the file can be closed either after a search has revealed that the product is not being sold or that, if found, adequate measures (including decisions not to take action) have been taken (D, DK, F, IRL, I, LUX, NL, P). The other is that the file can never be formally closed (B, EL, ESP, UK) because the product can appear/reappear at a later date.

These two approaches are not necessarily incompatible because, even if a file is theoretically "closed", a fresh report of the presence of the product on the national territory will bring it alive again.

#### IV. EQUIVALENT SYSTEMS

##### a) Pharmaceutical products

Under the Council Directive 75/319/EEC<sup>4</sup>, as amended by the Directive 83/570/EEC<sup>5</sup>, Member States are obliged to exchange all appropriate information needed to guarantee the quality, the safety and efficiency of medicinal products (Article 30) and to inform the Committee for proprietary medicinal products immediately of any steps to prohibit, to withdraw from sale or to suspend a proprietary medicinal product from the market.

In the case of an emergency this information is systematically exchanged through a network of contact persons in the 12 Ministries of Health and in the Commission Service III/B/6 responsible for pharmaceutical products. The list of contact persons is updated in the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products. Most of the urgent information is transmitted by telex or telefax.

This information is subsequently examined by the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products which holds plenary meetings every two months and special meetings whenever they are required. Medicines examined under the drug-monitoring heading are the subject of data sheets in which their status in the 12 Member States is described; these sheets are inserted in a document which is updated every two months.

As an example, the document compiled on 13.10.1987 (III/457/86 Rev. 11) describes the current situation of 17 medicines and was distributed in confidence in November 1987 to Member States representatives.

The exchange of this information could be facilitated by the use, within the next two years, of computer-based systems.

#### b) Animal Diseases Notification System (ADNS)

Under Article 9 of Directive 64/432/EEC, it is provided that Member States may take certain measures to safeguard their herds from serious animal diseases which occur in other Member States. This System is designed to deal with purely animal health problems.

When such measures are taken, the Commission coordinates action throughout the Community. In order to carry out this function, an intensive exchange of information on disease outbreaks between the Commission and the Member States takes place (about 40-50 cases per week). A computer-managed programme based on telex transmission of disease data was introduced in 1985. An Interactive Data Entry System (IDES) has now been developed which allows Member States to enter their own data directly into the Commission computer and receive reports from the rest of the Community.

#### V. EVALUATION

The Commission indicated in the Interim Report of 1986 that certain shortcomings in compliance with the Decision had been observed during the starting up phase. In particular it was stated that not all cases meeting the criteria for notification had been reported to the Commission. A problem not noted in the Report was that notifications received did not always contain sufficient information for the products to be easily identified on the market. It was also indicated that Member States did not always inform the Commission of the action taken following the reception of information. One year later it can be said that a certain improvement has taken place as regards these matters. The number of notifications has increased during 1987 perhaps as a result of the increased awareness of the System on the part of national officials in the various Ministries. Also as regards reporting to the Commission of action taken following notification a change is visible in most Member States although the level of reporting cannot still be considered as satisfactory. Informal contacts between contact points before and after the notifications have also played a valuable role in the management of the System. Although there is still much room for improvement it seems quite clear that the System is moving in the right direction and will continue to improve.

A list of the notifications received, both food and non-food, between March 1985 and 31 December 1987 is annexed (Annexes II and III). It will be noted that of the non-food cases, approximately fifty percent are electrical goods. Fortunately, of the eighteen notifications involved,

only one directly concerns children. This predominance of electrical products can be explained by the fact that imported electrical goods are normally subject to testing to ascertain whether they are in conformity with the Community "low voltage" Directive. The existence of standards in this field results in a proportionately high level of rejections compared with product areas which are less regulated. Whether such rejected products should automatically be regarded as presenting a serious and immediate danger to the public is a matter which merits further consideration.

Of the non-food notifications listed, it is of interest that about fifty percent originate in non-Community countries, both European and others.

It would be overly-fastidious to review all the food-sector cases occurring during these last four years; it will suffice to be reminded of the more important cases such as that of the prawns, the problems with wine and the effects of Chernobyl, to realize the usefulness and efficiency of the System.

More recently the contamination of cheese by listeria has created serious problems and has drawn wide attention throughout the Community. The exchange of information through the System, supplemented with other actions taken in connection with Agricultural Policy, has allowed Member States to dispose of very valuable information in order to deal with this hazard.

As far as Chernobyl is concerned, it is solely thanks to this System that since 6 May 1986, the Commission has adopted a Recommendation relating to the coordination of national measures taken in respect of agricultural products as a result of radioactive fallout from the Soviet Union (86/156/EEC) <sup>6</sup>.

At the present time, it is still the foodstuffs sector which assures mutual information between Member States and the Commission on the level of radio-activity in agricultural products, although it had not been foreseen that this System would be used for cases involving radio-activity following nuclear accidents.

The foodstuffs network is especially characterized by its great flexibility. It has developed, over the course of the years, a cohesion between the different points of contact and a feeling of responsibility which ensures that the exchanges are frequent, regular and not just as a result of notification, in such a way that it is not always necessary to release official warnings. The network allows for a collegial cooperation which goes well beyond the strict implementation of a legal act and provides opportunities for mutual help.

At the time of adopting the Decision it was thought that a more precise definition of what was meant by serious and immediate danger could be adopted after the four years of operation of the System. The matter has been discussed at length in several meetings of the Consultative Committee. There exists two approaches to the problem:

1. The first one considers that the absence of a definition may sometimes prevent Member States from notifying certain cases because they cannot consider the danger posed to consumers as serious or immediate. It has been pointed out to the Commission that certain measures of withdrawal of

products taken by the competent authorities for the application of electric appliances legislation could not be notified because the nature of the risk they posed to consumers was not serious nor immediate. According to this approach very-pragmatic and clear guidelines for the interpretation of "serious and immediate" should be approved by the Committee in order to widen the scope of the cases notifiable under the System.

2. The second approach considers that a certain degree of flexibility is needed for the operation of the System. The definition of danger as well as the opposite definition of safety poses considerable problems. The concept of safety is a changing one and products which were considered safe ten years ago are now deemed to be unsafe. A flexible approach would allow authorities in the Member States and in the Commission to judge on a case by case basis.

In view of the technical difficulties which have arisen every time that the problem of the definition of serious and immediate has been discussed, the Commission considers that a precise definition should not be introduced in the text of the Decision but should be tackled by means of guidelines issued by the Consultative Committee which could be easily modified in the light of experience.

The notification of voluntary measures taken by producers or importers equivalent to those included in article 1 of the Decision is also an important subject. Very often products are recalled or withdrawn from the market by voluntary action of producers or importers either as a result of contacts with authorities or at their own initiative. Notification of this type of measures is important as products may be withdrawn in one Member State but continue to be sold in another without knowledge of the competent authorities.

Member States and the Commission considered at the time of adoption of the Decision that the obligation to provide information thereunder would extend to voluntary action taken by producers or importers if such action was taken at the instigation of national authorities.

After four years of operation of the System, the Commission considers this to be a good solution. The Commission is aware that in some cases the disclosure of measures taken, even if that disclosure is not made public and is restricted to national authorities, leads importers and manufacturers not to take any measures for fear that their reputation on the market may be seriously damaged. The fact that there is no binding obligation to notify voluntary measures not taken at the instigation of the authorities does not prevent Member States from notifying these measures. It should be noted that a large part of the notifications received consist of voluntary measures. Here again the Commission feels that there is no need to introduce any changes in that respect which, if appropriate, should be made in the light of the consideration given to voluntary actions in the announced General Consumer Safety Directive.

The Commission announced in its Communication on safety of consumers in relation to consumer products of 8 May 1987 (COM (87) 209 final) the preparation of "a proposal for a general directive on consumer safety in relation to consumer products". Such a directive will of course have a close link to the Rapid Exchange System which, as it has been said in II above, is a first step towards a horizontal approach to consumer safety at Community level. The services of the Commission are presently working in the preparation of a draft directive and it is expected that a proposal



will be submitted to the Council in the course of 1988. The solutions given in that proposal to the problems posed will have an effect on the functioning of the Rapid Exchange System.

The Commission is, at present, making an effort to coordinate, insofar as possible, and to improve the technical operation of the rapid information systems existing or to be created in the fields of environment, accidents at work and civil defence. The results of the research being done at present will basically deal with the technical features of the System.

The recent adoption by the Council of a Decision on Community arrangements for the early exchange of information in the event of a radiological emergency (87/600/EURATOM) constitutes a very important step and will, through the coordination of the various systems, allow information concerning radiological emergencies which in some cases may affect consumer products to be fed into the System. A short description of the new System is attached as Annex IV.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

The Commission considers, as it already stated in its Interim Report, that the System has proved its functioning capacities and efficiency. The System has proved its usefulness as a warning system and as an instrument of crisis management through the various crisis which the Community has had to face since its creation.

The System will also, as the number of notifications increases, provide a valuable instrument for the prevention of accidents involving consumer products by focusing attention on those products or categories of products which have been the subject of frequent measures in Member States and, as a result, by establishing priorities for action, both at Member State and Community level.

The fact that the General Consumer Safety Directive and the Rapid Exchange System are closely linked makes it advisable not to introduce at this point in time any changes in the Decision. The solutions given in the General Consumer Safety Directive to the various problems in the field of safety will undoubtedly affect the functioning of the Rapid Exchange System. This is why the Commission considers that the period of validity of the Decision should be extended for six more years, a reasonable term to allow the adoption by the Council of the General Consumer Safety Directive.

Accordingly the Commission presents this report to the Council with a proposal for a decision, attached as Annex I.

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION

amending Decision 84/133/EEC introducing a Community System for  
the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the  
use of consumer products

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,  
and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission<sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament<sup>2</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee<sup>3</sup>,

Whereas Article 8(2) of Council Decision 84/133/EEC<sup>4</sup> provides that the  
Decision remain in force for a period of four years from the date of its  
notification and that, in the light of experience, the Commission present  
a report with proposals on the basis of which the Council may decide upon  
the continuation or revision of the system;

Whereas in view of the intention of the Commission to submit to the Council  
a proposal for a directive on consumer safety it is appropriate to extend  
for six more years the period in which the Decision is to remain in force  
without introducing any other changes for the present,

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<sup>4</sup> OJ No L 70, 13.3.1984, p. 16.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 8(2) of Decision 84/133/EEC the words "four years" are replaced by the words "ten years".

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at

For the Council

ANNEXE II13.1.1988  
(D 91)Liste des sujets qui ont fait l'objet d'un échange rapide d'informations  
depuis septembre 1979List of subjects which have been dealt with by the rapid exchange of information  
since September 1979

Les problèmes mentionnés ci-dessous sont des cas isolés et ne constituent pas un problème des denrées en question.

The problems identified below relate to isolated cases only and not to a problem of the food in question.

1. Cas en 1979  
Cases in 1979

- 1.1 Calamars impropres à la consommation (taux d'azote basique volatile total trop élevé) septembre 1979  
Damaged calamares (level of total basic volatile nitrogen too high) September 1979

2. Cas en 1980  
Cases in 1980

- 2.1 Ailes de raies congelées (taux d'azote basique volatil total trop élevé) 26.1.1980  
Frozen skate wings (too high level of total basic volatile nitrogen)
- 2.2 Corned beef (boîtes gonflées) 24.3.1980  
Corned beef (blown cans)
- 2.3 Crevettes surgelées (staphylocoques) 10.4.1980  
Quick-frozen prawns (staphylococcus)
- 2.4 Cuisses de grenouilles surgelées (taux d'azote basique volatil total trop élevé) 10.4.1980  
Quick-frozen frogs' legs (too high level of total basic volatile nitrogen)
- 2.5 Poudre de sang destinée à la fabrication de boudin (escherischia) 30.4.1980  
Powdered blood for blood sausage (escherischia)
- 2.6 Blancs d'encornets (taux d'azote basique volatil total trop élevé) 12.6.1980  
White calamares (too high level of total basic volatile nitrogen)
- 2.7 Ris de veau congelé (contamination microbienne) 20.6.1980  
Frozen sweetbreads (microbial contamination)

2.8	Concentré de purée de tomates en conserve (teneur en plomb trop élevée) Canned concentrated tomato purée (too high lead level)	1.7.1980
2.9	Epaule de porc cuite (mal cuite) Cooked shoulder of pork (badly cooked)	5.8.1980
2.10	Blancs de seiche (taux d'azote basique volatil total) White of seiche (too high level of total basic volatile nitrogen)	26.8.1980
2.11	Petits pots pour bébés (hormones de synthèse) Canned baby food (synthetic hormones)	8.9.1980
2.12	Ris de veau (alteration) Sweetbreads adulterated)	13.10.1980
2.13	Crevettes surgelées (contamination microbienne) Quick-frozen prawns (microbial contamination)	7.11.1980
2.14	Tétines (sucettes) (nitrosamines) Babies' dummies (nitrosamines)	10.12.1980
2.15	Aérosols contenant de la neige artificielle Danger d'inflammabilité Aerosols containing artificial snow danger to become inflammable	22.12.1980
3.	<u>Cas en 1981</u> <u>Cases in 1981</u>	
3.1	Champignons en conserve en tranches (contamination microbiologique) Canned sliced mushrooms (microbiological contamination)	6.1.1981
3.2	Pommes (azinphos-méthyl) Apples (azinphos-méthyl)	6.1.1981
3.3	Jambon en conserve (toxines du botulisme) Canned ham (botulism toxins)	3.3.1981
3.4	Purée d'haricots blancs pimentée (toxines du botulisme) White bean curd with chili (botulism toxins)	15.6.1981
3.5	Huile frelatée en Espagne Spoiled oil in Spain	octobre 1981 October 1981

- 3.6 Thon à l'huile de soja en conserve  
(Taux d'histamine trop élevé)  
Canned tuna fish from Morocco  
(too high level of histamine) 14.10.1981
- 3.7 Langoustes entières cuites, congelées  
(intoxication alimentaire: causes inconnues)  
Frozen cooked lobster  
(poisoning: cause unknown) 14.10.1981
- 3.8 Cuisses de grenouilles  
(clostridium et escherischia)  
Frogs' legs  
(clostridium and escherischia) 24.11.1981
- 3.9 Sardines (taux d'histamine trop élevé)  
Sardines (too high level of histamine) 25.11.1981
- 3.10 Pâte d'arachides (aflatoxines)  
Peanut butter (aflatoxins) 10.12.1981
- 3.11 Thon à l'huile de soja  
Tuna fish 14.12.1981
4. Cas en 1982  
Cases in 1982
- 4.1 Filets de sole congelés  
(critères bactériologiques insatisfaisants)  
Frozen fillet of sole  
(unsatisfactory bacteriological criteria) 5.2.1982
- 4.2 Saumon en conserve  
(toxines de botulisme)  
Canned salmon  
(botulism toxins) 7.2.1982
- 4.3 Saumon en conserve  
(contamination microbienne)  
Canned salmon  
(microbial contamination) 23.4.1982
- 4.4 Tablettes de chocolat (salmonelles)  
Chocolate bars (salmonella) 28.7.1982
- 4.5 Crevettes décortiquées et congelées  
(critères bactériologiques insatisfaisants)  
Frozen shelled prawns  
(unsatisfactory bacteriological criteria) 10.8.1982
- 4.6 Thon en conserve (taux d'histamine trop élevé)  
Canned tuna fish (too high level of histamine) 23.8.1982
- 4.7 Haricots verts surgelés  
(solanum nigrum)  
Quick-frozen green beans  
(solanum nigrum) 13.10.1982

4.8	Bouchons en forme de têtes (dimensions du bouchon) Sweet bottles (size of the stopper)	14.12.1982
4.9	Tomates pelées en conserve (taux en étain trop élevé) Canned peeled tomatoes from Italy (too high level of tin)	19.12.1982
5.	<u>Cas en 1983</u> <u>Cases in 1983</u>	
5.1	Cuisses de grenouilles surgelées (salmonella) Quick-frozen frogs' legs (salmonella)	4.1.1983
5.2	Concentrés de bouillon de légumes contenant des extraits de levure (bacillus cerus) Concentrates of vegetable soup containing yeast extracts (bacillus cerus)	27.1.1983
5.3	Thé (belladonna) Tea (belladonna)	4.2.1983
5.4	Bonbons (glutamates) Sweets (glutamates)	8.2.1983
5.5	Barres de chocolat fourrés (pentachlore-phénol) Filled chocolate bars (pentachlore-phenol)	21.2.1983
5.6	Requins fumés en conserve (mercure) Canned smoked shark (quicksilver)	9.3.1983
5.7	Champignons en conserve (toxines du botulisme) Canned mushrooms (botulism toxins)	22.3.1983
5.8	Pâte à tartiner (toxines du botulisme) Paste for spreading (botulism toxins)	11.4.1983
5.9	Fèves de cacao contaminées par de l'huile Oil-contaminated cocoa beans	28.4.1983
5.10	LOTS de vanille (formol) Batches of vanilla (formol)	14.9.1983
5.11	Fromage (contamination microbienne) Cheese (microbial contamination)	13.10.1983
5.12	Fromage (contamination microbienne) Munster cheese (microbial contamination)	16.11.1983

6.	<u>Cas en 1984</u> <u>Cases in 1984</u>	
6.1	Cacahuètes (aflatoxines) Peanuts (aflatoxins)	4.1.1984
6.2	Crevettes (contamination par shigelles) Shrimps (contamination by shigella)	16.1.1984
6.3	Tisane de bardane (présence de racines de belladone) Herb tea of bardane (presence of root of belladonna)	23.1.1984
6.4	Eau potable (nitrates) Drinking water (nitrates)	25.1.1984
6.5	Pâtes alimentaires (présence de staphylocoques dans certaines lasagnes) Pasta (presence of staphylococcus in certain lasagne)	7.2.1984
6.6	Feux d'artifice de petites tailles Small fireworks	9.2.1984
6.7	Céréales traitées au dibromure d'éthylène Cereals treated with ethylene dibromide	23.2.1984
6.8	Poudres à éternuer Sneezing powders	28.2.1984
6.9	Objets céramiques (contamination par le plomb) Ceramic vessels (lead contamination)	13.3.1984
6.10	Résidus de pentachlorophenol sur les bois des caisses utilisées pour l'envoi d'oranges Pentachlorophenol residues on the wood of fruit crates	28.3.1984
6.11	Pâté de Normandie (salmonella) French pâté (salmonella)	27.6.1984
6.12	Fromage fondu (liquéfié) Melted cheese	10.7.1984
6.13	Asperges en conserve (toxines du botulisme) Canned asparagus (botulism toxins)	6.8.1984
6.14	Viande de kangourou (non fondé) Kangaroo meat (unfounded)	17.9.1984
6.15	Gommes colorées aromatisées (plomb et cadmium) Coloured and flavoured gums (lead and cadmium)	26.10.1984
6.16	Pâté crème (contaminé par salmonella isanguis) cream pâté (contaminated by salmonella isanguis)	7.11.1984
6.17	Pâté Pâté	23.11.1984
6.18	Gommes à mâcher (aluminium E 173) Chewing gum (aluminium E 173)	20.12.1984



7.	<u>Cas en 1985</u> <u>Cases in 1985</u>	
7.1	Pâtes aux oeufs et aux épinards (contamination par staphylocoques) Pasta with eggs and spinach (contaminated by staphylococcus)	8.5.1985
7.2	Barres MARS (SABOTAGE) (actes de sabotage au Japon, France et au Royaume Uni) MARS bars (SABOTAGE in Japan, France and the United Kingdom)	8.7.1985
7.3	Lasagne da forno (staphylocoques aureus) Lasagne (staphylococcus aureus)	8.7.1985
7.4	Vins (contenant du diéthylène glycol) wines (containing diethylene glycol)	12.7.1985
7.5	Jus de raisins (contaminé aux diéthylène glycol) grape juice (contaminated by diethylene glycol)	5.8.1985
7.6	Préparation pour glaces (présence de diéthylène glycol monoéthyl éther) (MEG) Ice mixes (with monethyl ether of diethylene glycol) (MEG)	7.8.1985
7.7	Lapin surgelé (faible teneur en DDT) Quick-frozen rabbit (DDT content)	28.8.1985
7.8	Tomates et pommes de terre (pesticides) Tomatoes and potatoes (pesticides)	29.8.1985
7.9	Maizena (chloro-phénol) Maizena (chlorophenol)	3.9.1985
7.10	Bonbons gummies (contenant du diéthylène glycol) Gum sweets (containing diethylene glycol)	23.9.1985
7.11	Conserves de haricots verts (corps étranger toxique) Canned green beans (foreign toxic substance)	1.10.1985
7.12	Lasagne (contamination par staphylocoques) Lasagne (contaminated by staphylococcus)	16.10.1985
7.13	Fromage contenant DEG (statistiques pendant une période 1980/81/82/83) DEG in cheese and curd (statistics during period 1980/81/82/83)	
7.14	Sodium azide dans certain vins Sodium azide in certain wines	31.10.1985
7.15	Conserves de haricots contenant des baies de solanum nigrum Canned beans containing berries of solanum nigrum	6.11.1985

7.16	Tomates en conserves contaminées (odeurs indésirables) Contaminated tinned tomatoes for pizza (abnormal smell reminding of faecal origin)	7.11.1985
7.17	DEG dans le champagne DEG in champagne	19.11.1985
7.18	Denrées alimentaires empoisonnées par une organisation terroriste food poisoned by a terrorist organization	9.12.1985
7.19	Lait en poudre contaminé par salmonella Powdered milk contaminated by salmonella	23.12.1985
8.	<u>Cas en 1986</u> <u>Cases in 1986</u>	
8.1	Menaces d'empoisonnement du thé Threats of poisoning of tea	7.1.1986
8.2	Menaces d'empoisonnement de produits alimentaires Threats of poisoning of food products	9.1.1986
8.3	Malathion dans le seigle Malathion in rye	29.1.1986
8.4	Conserves de tomates Canned tomatoes	26.2.1986
8.5	Brie contaminé (information parue dans le National Dairy News du 28.2.1986) Contaminated brie (information appeared in the National Dairy News of 28.2.1986)	28.2.1986
8.6	Imitation de denrées alimentaires Imitation of foodstuffs	5.3.1986
8.7	Veaux traités aux hormones Veal treated with hormones	13.3.1986
8.8	Vins frelatés par du méthanol wines poisoned by methanol	20.3.1986
8.9	Vins contenant du diéthylène glycol wines containing diethylene glycol	9.4.1986
8.10	Vermouth contenant du méthanol vermouth containing methanol	28.4.1986
8.11	Éthylcarbamate dans les spiritueux Ethylcarbamate in spirits	28.4.1986
8.12	Boisson alcoolisée contaminée par l'hydroxyde de sodium Alcoholic drink contaminated by sodium hydroxide	30.4.1986

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|------|---|-----------|
| 8.13 | Accident de Tchernobyl<br>Tchernobyl accident   | 30.4.1986 |
| 8.14 | Fromage contaminé par bactéries<br>Cheese contaminated by bacteria  | 31.5.1986 |
| 8.15 | Detecté penicilline dans 689 cartons "bovine eye rounds"<br>Detected penicillin in 689 cases of "bovine eye rounds" | 17.7.1986 |
| 8.16 | Moules fraîches contaminées par la Saxitoxine.<br>Fresh mussels contaminated by Saxitoxine                          | 4.12.1986 |

9. CAS EN 1987  
CASES IN 1987

- |      |   |            |
|------|---|------------|
| 9.1  | Reclassification du Maïs.<br>Mais reclassification.   | 9. 1.1987  |
| 9.2  | Vins contenant de l'Ethylene glycol.<br>Wines containing Ethylenglycol.   | 23. 1.1987 |
| 9.3  | Cafe vert en grains contenant des Aflatoxines.<br>Green coffee beans containing Aflatoxines.  | 23. 1.1987 |
| 9.4  | Moules congelées traitées par irradiation.<br>Frozen mussels treated by irradiation.  | 11. 2.1987 |
| 9.5  | Moules en conserves contaminées par la Saxitoxine.<br>Canned mussels poisoned by Saxitoxine.  | 16. 2.1987 |
| 9.6  | Vins artificiels.<br>Artificial wines.  | 13. 4.1987 |
| 9.7  | Asperges en conserves. ( 6.13 du 6.8.1984)<br>Canned asparagus.   | 24. 4.1987 |
| 9.8  | Oeufs liquides importés en Allemagne<br>Liquid eggs imported into Germany   | 8. 5.1987  |
| 9.9  | Residus de pesticides dans les fraises et dans<br>les paprika d'origine d'Espagne<br>Pesticide residues on strawberries and peppers<br>originating from Spain | 4. 6.1987  |
| 9.10 | Biotoxines dans les coquillages<br>Biotoxins in shellfish   | 4. 6.1987  |
| 9.11 | Lessive de Soude dans le Jus d'Orange<br>Soda lye in Orange Juice   | 9. 6.1987  |

9.12	Biotoxine dans les Moules fraiches Biotoxin in raw Mussels	17. 6.1987
9.13	Moules en conserves contaminées par Saxitoxine Canned Mussels poisoned by Saxitoxine See case 9.5 of 16.2.1987	28. 8.1987
9.14	Toxine PSP dans les Mollusques vivants Portugais PSP toxin in Portugese live Molluscs	1. 9.1987
9.15	P.S.P. dans les moules P.S.P. in mussels	8.10.1987
9.16	Residus de soufre et de cuivre dans les raisins Italiens Residues of sulphur and copper in Italien grapes	8.10.1987
9.17	Bactérie Listeria monocytogène dans les Fromages du type "VACHERIN MONT D'OR" Bacteria Listeria monocytogène in Cheese of the type of "VACHERIN MONT D'OR"	27.11.1987
9.18	Mollusque bivalve a Canada Shellfish poisoning in Canada	14.12.1987

10 CAS EN 1988  
CASES IN 1988

10.1	Jus d'orange contaminée par ferrocyanure de potassium Orange juice contaminated with potassium ferrocyanide	8. 1.1988
10.2	Salmonella Typhimurium 124 dans una saucisse du type "SALAMI" Salmonella Typhimurium 124 in a sausage of the salami type	2. 2.1988

Total 122 (2.2.1988)

No.	Cas non-alimentaires reçus jusqu'au 31 décembre 1987 Non-food cases received up to 31 December 1987	Danger apparent Apparent danger	Date reçue Date received
1	Pistolet jouet Toy Pistol	incendie des particules chaudes des amorces fire from hot particles of cap	28.05.1985
2	New Grobots etc. articles de nouveauté gonflants New Grobots etc. expanding novelties	si avale, il gonfle dans l'estomac. if swallowed expands in the stomach.	20.11.1985
3	Pistolet jouet Toy pistol	ricochet des balles ricochet of bullets	20.02.1986
4	Radio portative Portable radio	choc électrique electric shock	20.02.1986
5	Pâte de modélage Modelling clay	cas non-conforme aux critères case did not satisfy criteria	02.04.1986
6	Insecticide électrique Insect killer	choc électrique electric shock	27.06.1986
7	Caravanne  Caravan	1) intoxication par gas 2) incendie 3) choc électrique 1) gas poisoning 2) fire 3) electric shock	27.06.1986
8	Lumière d'aquarium Aquarium light	choc électrique electric shock	04.07.1986
9	Monte-chaise-roulante par escalier Stairway lift for wheelchair	descente incontrôlée uncontrolled descent	04.07.1986
10	Chaudière à vapeur pour prothèses dentaires Steam steriliser for false teeth	échaudure scalding	04.07.1986
11	Ballon à air chaud (miniature) Hot air balloon (miniature)	incendie fire	04.07.1986
12	Pistolet jouet Toy pistol	trop puissant too powerful	04.07.1986
13	Treuil à moteur Motor winch	retour de manivelle backfiring	04.07.1986
14	Plongeur électrique Immersion heater (not fixed)	incendie fire	25.07.1986
15	Hamac Hammock	chute fall	11.07.1986
16	Fer à souder Soldering iron	choc électrique electric shock	29.07.1986
17	Chauffe-eau Immersion heater (fixed)	choc électrique electric shock	29.07.1986
18	Fer à souder Soldering iron	idem idem	29.07.1986

No.	Cas non-alimentaires reçus jusqu'au 31 décembre 1987 Non-food cases received up to 31 December 1987	Danger Apparent Apparent danger	Date reçu Date received
19	Cordon prolongateur Extension lead	idem idem	29.07.1986
20	Fer à repasser Smoothing iron	idem idem	29.07.1986
21	Applique pour lampe Light fixture	idem idem	29.07.1986
22	Bloc mobile à prise multiple Free-standing electric adaptor	idem	29.07.1986
23	Fusibles industriels Industrial fuses	explosion explosion	29.07.1986
24	Fiche bipolaire Two-pin plug	choc électrique electric shock	29.07.1986
25	Radiateur électrique (marque 1) Electric radiator (brand 1)	idem idem	29.07.1986
26	Radiateur électrique (marque 2) Electric radiator (brand 2)	idem idem	29.07.1986
27	Boîte de déviation Junction box	idem idem	29.07.1986
28	Radiateur électrique (marque 3) Electric radiator (brand 3)	idem idem	29.07.1986
29	Condensateur (marque 1) Condenser (brand 1)	idem idem	29.07.1986
30	Condensateur (marque 2) Condenser (brand 2)	idem idem	29.07.1986
31	Friteuse Deep-fryer	idem idem	29.07.1986
32	Filtre d'aquarium Aquarium filter	choc électrique electric shock	12.09.1986
33	Lumière d'aquarium Aquarium light	idem idem	12.09.1986
34	Four jouet Toy electric oven	idem idem	20.10.1986
35	Ventilateur électrique Electric fan heater	idem idem	24.11.1986
36	Compteur d'amour magique Magic love maker	méthanol methanol	27.12.1986
37	Chaîne lumineuse de Noël Christmas tree lights	choc électrique electric shock	27.12.1986
38	Cafetière électrique Electric coffee maker	idem idem	20.01.1987
39	Insta-mouss (véhicule miniature gonflant) Insta-mouss (miniature expanding toy vehicle)	expansion après avalement expansion after swallowing	02.03.1987
40	Tournevis pour tester la tension du secteur Screwdriver/maintester	choc électrique electric shock	28.05.1987

No.	Cas non-alimentaires reçus jusqu'au 31 décembre 1987 Non-food cases received up to 31 December 1987	Danger Apparent Apparent danger	Date reçu Date received
41	Montre-bracelet/briquet Watch/lighter	mettre feu aux vêtements setting fire to clothing	17.06.1987
42	Toboggan attaché au lit superposé Slide on bunk bed	chute fall	02.06.1987
43	Jouet poussette Toy push-chair	aux doigts to fingers	18.08.1987
44	Poussette Push-chair	rupture du cadre collapse of frame	21.08.1987
45	Ouvre-boîte Tin opener	projection de la poignée risk of handle flying off	15.09.1987
46	Jouet poussette Toy push-chair	aux doigts to fingers	15.09.1987
47	Cuisinière à gaz gas cooker	brûlures, explosion burns, explosion	29.10.1987
48	Thermoplongeur Immersion heater	choc électrique electric shock	12.11.1987
49	Recipient auto-chauffant pour aliments Self-heating food-container	fuite des substances caustiques escape of caustic substances	30.10.1987
50	Tirelire (cochon) Piggy bank	empoisonnement poisoning	24.11.1987
51	Radiateur à accumulation Electric storage heater	choc électrique/ chaleur excessive electric shock/ excessive heat	11.12.1987
52	Radiateur radiant Radiant electric fire	choc électrique electric shock	"
53	Éléments de remplacement pour fusibles Parts for fuse	idem	"
54	Lampe de table halogène Halogene table lamp	choc électrique electric shock	"
55	Lampe de table halogène Halogene table lamp	idem	"
56	Essoreuse Spin drier	laceration des mains laceration to hands	"
57	Trancheuse électrique Electric kitchen slicer	choc électrique electric shock	"
58	Brosse aspirante Hand-held brush vacuum cleaner	idem idem	"
59	Poupée clown musicale Musical clown doll	étouffement choking	10.12.1987

ANNEX IV**Community arrangements for the early exchange of information in the event of a radiological emergency**

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The Council Decision (87/600/EURATOM) of 14 December 1987 on Community arrangements for the early exchange of information in the event of a radiological emergency provides in particular that when a Member State decides to take measures of a widespread nature, in order to protect the general public in the event of a radiological emergency, that Member State shall :

- a) forthwith notify these measures to the Commission and those Member States which are, or are likely to be, affected and indicate the reasons for taking them;
- b) promptly provide the Commission and those Member States which are, or are likely to be, affected with available information which will permit, the foreseen radiological consequences, if any, in those States, to be minimized.

The above information shall comprise, as far as practicable and appropriate, and without jeopardy to matters of national security, the following points :

- . the nature and time of the event, its exact location and the facility or the activity involved;
- . the assumed or established cause and the foreseeable development of the accident relevant to the release of radioactive materials;
- . the general characteristics of the radioactive release, including the nature, probable physical and chemical form and the quantity, composition and effective height of the radioactive release;
- . information on current and forecast meteorological and hydrological conditions, necessary for forecasting the dispersion of the radioactive release;
- . the results of environmental monitoring;
- . the results of measurements of foodstuffs, feedingstuffs and drinking water;
- . the protective measures taken or planned;
- . the measures taken, or planned, to inform the public;
- . the predicted behaviour over time of the radioactive release.



Upon receipt of the information provided for by this Decision, any Member State shall :

- a) promptly inform the Commission of the measures taken and recommendations issued following the receipt of such information;
- b) inform the Commission, at appropriate intervals, of the levels of radioactivity measured by their monitoring facilities in foodstuffs, feedingstuffs, drinking water and the environment.

For its part, the Commission has the task of immediately retransmitting the information received to the other Member States. Likewise it shall forward to all Member States any information it receives about significant increases in the level of radioactivity or about Community countries and especially those adjacent to the Community.

This system satisfies all obligations arising under the Vienna Convention of 26 September 1986 on the early notification of a nuclear accident, drawn up under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which the Council decided to join on 14 December 1987 and allows the Commission to carry out the tasks which are assigned to it by the Euratom Treaty, which involves overseeing the monitoring of the levels of environmental radioactivity in the Member States.