

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM (79) 128 final

Brussels, 19 March 1979

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL
WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN PROPOSALS FOR DIRECTIVES ON
THE APPROXIMATION OF THE LAWS OF THE MEMBER STATES
RELATING TO FOODSTUFFS

COM (79) 128 final

Communication from the Commission to the Council

Subject: Withdrawal of certain proposals for directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs

The Commission has decided to withdraw a number of the proposals presented in past years for directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs.

In the attached document, each of these proposals is dealt with in the form of a sheet, which indicates the reasons for withdrawal and the approach the Commission intends to adopt in the future to the various subjects in question.

Sheet 1

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to meat extracts, yeast extracts and protein extracts, flavouring for soups and other dishes, bouillons, soups and meat-based sauces. COM(68)808 final of 25 October 1968

Transmitted to Council on 30 October 1968

OJ C 136 of 19 December 1968, p. 7

Opinion of European Parliament delivered at its sitting of 14 March 1969

OJ C 041 of 1 April 1969, p. 29

Opinion of Economic and Social Committee delivered on 8 May 1969

OJ C 076 of 17 June 1969, p. 20

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1. This proposal has not been examined at the Council since May 1973.
 2. The Commission has decided to withdraw the proposal because:
 - it is very old;
 - it does not sufficiently take account of the situation created by the enlargement of the Community;
 - it has to be adapted to the new rules on the labelling of foodstuffs in general.
 3. The Commission considers that a vertical directive is still necessary in this sector, but thinks that it should be limited in scope to those products in which trade is still considerably hampered by national provisions relating to:
 - designations reserved for products of a given composition;
 - the use of additives.Moreover, a vertical directive would enable a decision to be taken at a later date on the Community's adherence to the Codex Alimentarius standard for the various categories of bouillons, which will shortly reach the final stage of preparation.

4. The Commission is keeping in touch with the industrial circles concerned with a view to finding solutions to the problems referred to above, but cannot say at the moment exactly when it will be able to present a new proposal to the Council.

Sheet 2

Proposal for a Council directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning pasta.

COM(68)834 final of 5 November 1968

Transmitted to Council on 7 November 1968

Opinion of European Parliament delivered at its sitting of 2 February 1970

Amended by COM(70)625 final

OJ C 136 of 19.12.1968, p. 16

OJ C 025 of 28.2.1970, p. 14

OJ C 100 of 1.8.1969, p. 11

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1. This proposal has not been examined at the Council since November 1970.
 2. The Commission has realized that no solution is likely to be forthcoming in this area, particularly as regards the choice of raw materials (soft wheat/hard wheat);
 3. This being so, the Commission has decided to give up any attempt to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to pasta.
 4. It should be noted, however, that the pasta sector is subject to the new provisions on the labelling of foodstuffs in general. Henceforward, therefore, pasta intended for the ultimate consumer will have to be provided with a list of ingredients, which will tell the consumer the nature of the raw materials used.

Sheet 3

Proposal for a Council directive on the manufacture and marketing of margarine.

COM(68)879 final of 26 November 1968

Transmitted to Council on 28 November 1968

Opinion of European Parliament delivered at its sitting on 4 July 1969

Opinion of Economic and Social Committee given on 8 May 1969

Amended by COM(70)70 final

QJ C 137 of 20.12.1968, p. 2

QJ C 097 of 28.7.1969, p. 94

QJ C 095 of 21.7.1969, p. 11

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1. This proposal has not been examined at the Council since February 1971.
 2. The Commission has decided to withdraw the proposal because:
 - it is very old;
 - it does not take sufficient account of the situation created by the enlargement of the Community;
 - it needs to be adapted to the new rules on the labelling of foodstuffs in general.
 3. The Commission considers that a vertical directive is still necessary in this sector, as there are considerable discrepancies between the national laws, notably on the following questions:
 - the minimum rate for fats;
 - the use of additives;
 - the compulsory use of telltale substances (to guard against the adulteration of butter);
 - the shaping of margarine prints.The Commission will endeavour to determine which of these aspects still have a direct effect on the operation of the common market, and thus require Community action.
It should also be noted that the new directive on the labelling of foodstuffs in general does not solve all the problems associated with the labelling of margarine; this applies in particular to the way the list of ingredients has to be drawn up.
Moreover, a vertical directive will enable the Community to give an opinion on the Codex Alimentarius standard that has existed in this sector for many years.

4. The Commission is keeping in touch with the industrial circles concerned with a view to finding solutions to the problems referred to above , but cannot say at the moment exactly when it will be able to present a new proposal to the Council.

Sheet 4

Proposal for a Council directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on low-sodium dietary foods.

Doc. COM/70/6 final of 15 January 1970

Transmitted to Council on 19 January 1970

OJ C 020 of 14.2.1970, p. 11

Opinion of European Parliament delivered at its sitting on 14 May 1970

OJ C 065 of 5.6.1970, p. 80

Opinion of Economic and Social Committee delivered on 21 October 1970

Oj C 146 of 11.12.1970, p. 24

1. This proposal was designed as a preliminary measure in implementation of Council Directive 77/94/EEC of 21 December 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses (OJ L 26 of 31.1.1977, p. 55).
2. Since the adoption of that Directive, the Commission, in collaboration with the industrial circles concerned, has re-examined the priorities in the area of foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses (dietary foods) and has come to the conclusion that the first to be tackled should be the various children's foods, in particular:
 - infant formulas;
 - special milks for weaning;
 - baby foods;
 - cereal-based foods.

The preparatory work in the drafting of proposals in these sectors has already started.

3. Pending the results of the activities described above, the Commission feels that the proposal relating to low-sodium foods ought to be withdrawn and subsequently incorporated in a new proposal on the designations of a series of dietary foods for specific uses in the case of persons whose metabolism is disturbed.

Sheet 5

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to soft drinks.
COM(70) 353 of 10 April 1970

Transmitted to the Council on 14 April 1970

OJ C 055 of 9.8.1970, p. 1

Opinion of the European Parliament delivered at its sitting on 17 November 1970

OJ C 143 of 3.12.1970, p. 39

Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee delivered on 24 February 1971

OJ C 036 of 19.4.1971, p. 1

1. This proposal has not been examined at the Council since November 1972. The examination was interrupted in order to carry through the work on fruit juices and similar products and on the labelling of foodstuffs in general.
2. The Commission has decided to withdraw this proposal because:
 - it is a very old one;
 - it does not take sufficient account of the enlargement of the Community;
 - it has to be adapted to the new Community rules on:
 - fruit juices and similar products;
 - the labelling of foodstuffs in general.
3. The Member States, industrial associations and consumer organizations are very favourable towards a resumption of the work. This is borne out by:
 - the position adopted by the senior officials of the Member States at the meeting within the Council on 24 February 1977 [T/209/77 (AGRI), bottom of page 4].
 - the Opinion delivered by the Economic and Social Committee on the proposal for an amendment to Directive 75/726/EEC on fruit juices and similar products, in which the Commission and the Council were urged to start work again with a view to securing the adoption of the Directive on soft drinks [CES 1142/78, page 2].
4. The Commission has already set to work on the preparation of a new proposal for this sector, When the usual consultations have been completed, the Commission will present the new proposal to the Council.

Sheet 6

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning natural yeasts and yeast residues.

COM 73/330 final of 5 March 1973

Transmitted to Council on 7 March 1973

Opinion of European Parliament delivered at its meeting of 9 December 1974

proposal non published in the OJ

OJ C 05 of 8.1.1975, p. 11

Opinion of Economic and Social Committee given on 31 January 1974

OJ C 139 of 9.12.1974, p. 10

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1. This proposal has not been examined at the Council since February 1975.
 2. The Commission has realised that the possibilities for finding unanimous agreement on the subject dealt with in its proposal was minimal. On the other hand it appears that intra-Community exchanges in this sector have developed in a satisfactory way even without a harmonization Directive.
 3. This being so the Commission has decided not to carry on for the moment with its activities on the matter of approximation of legislations of the Member States on natural yeasts and yeast residues. This decision will be maintained as long as the present situation remains unchanged.