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NEWSLETTER ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

ASPECTS OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF CONCERN TO CONSUMERS

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176

FORKLARENDE BEMÆRKNINGER

Dokumentationsbulletinen omfatter fire udgaver:

— A-udgaven: ugentlig bulletin indeholdende resumeer af retsakter, meddelelser og dokumenter fra institutionerne samt af tidsskriftartikler. De rekster, der udvalges og gennemgås af Centraltjenesten for Dokumentation — (SCAD-IX/C/1) — vedrører institutionernes virksomhed og alle hertil knyttede områder. Europa-Parlamentets dokumentationstjeneste yder sit bidrag til afsnittet med udvalgte artikler.

— B-udgaven: oplysningsbulletin, der ikke udkommer regelmæssigt, og som indeholder bibliografiske henvisninger vedrørende et bestemt emne. Hvert nyt nummer annullerer det foregående.

— C-udgaven: sammenfattende oversigt, der ikke udkommer regelmæssigt. Hvert nummer behandler en rubrik i klassifikationen og citerer de henvisninger der er nævnt i A-udgaven siden den sidste oversigt om samme emne.

— D-udgaven: bulletin reserverer for tidsskrifter, der oplyser om De europæiske Fællesskabers aktiviteter.

Hnevisningerne i A-udgaven og C-udgaven er angivet på følgende måde:

a) øverst til venstre: løbenummer:
A (Fællesskabets retsaker osv).
B (udvalgte artikler)

b) i selve teksten: bibliografisk beskrivelse

c) nederst til venstre: klassifikationsangivelse

d) nederst til højre: (eventuelt) SCAD-microfilmnummer eller Publikationskontorets katalognummer eller forkortelsen PE (Europa-Parlament)

HINWEIS

Das Dokumentationsbulletin besteht aus vier Ausgaben:

— Ausgabe A: Wöchentliches Referateblatt. Verweist auf Rechtsakten, Mitteilungen und Dokumente der Gemeinschaften, sowie auf Zeitschriftenartikel. Die vom Zentraldienst — Dokumentation (SCAD-IX/C/1) ausgewerteten Texte betreffen die Tätigkeit der Institutionen und Organe der Gemeinschaften sowie die mit dieser Tätigkeit zusammenhängenden Gebiete.
Die Zeitschriftenartikel werden unter Mitwirkung der Abteilung Dokumentation des Europäischen Parlaments ausgewählt.

— Ausgabe B: Unregelmässig. Auswahlbibliographie (zu bestimmten Sachbereichen). Jede Neuauflage ersetzt die vorherige Ausgabe.

— Ausgabe C: Unregelmässig. Kumulierende Bibliographie. Nach je einem Sachgebiet der Ausgabe A geordnete Sammlung. Enthält die in einem bestimmten Zeitraum veröffentlichten Texte.

— Ausgabe D: Veröffentlichungen über die Tätigkeit der Europäischen Gemeinschaften vorbehalten.

Die bibliographischen Referenzen (Ausgaben A und C) sind wie folgt angegeben:

a) oben links: laufende nummer:
A (Dokumente der Gemeinschaften usw.)
B (ausgewählte Zeitschriftenartikel)

b) Mitte: Bibliographische Beschreibung

c) unten links: Klassifikationsziffer

d) unten rechts: (ggf) Mikrofilm-Nummer (SCAD), oder Katalognummer (Amt für Amtliche Veröffentlichungen), oder Abkürzung PE (Europäisches Parlament)

ΕΠΕΞΗΓΗΜΑΤΙΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΜΑ

Τό πληροφοριακό δελτίο τεκμηριώσεως περιλαμβάνει τέσσερις ἐκδόσεις:

— Τήν ἔκδοση Α: 'Εβδομαδιαῖο ἀναλυτικό δελτίο πού ἐπισημαίνει πράξεις, ἀνακοινώσεις καί ἔγγραφα τῶν ὀργάνων καθώς καί ἄρθρα περιοδικῶν. Τά κείμενα πού ἐπιλέγονται καί ἀναλύονται ἀπό τήν Κεντρική 'Υπηρεσία τεκμηριώσεως (SCAD-IX/C/1) ἀφοροῦν τίς δραστηριότητες τῶν ὀργάνων καί ὅλους τούς τομεῖς πού ἔχουν σχέση μέ αὐτά.
'Η 'Υπηρεσία τεκμηριώσεως τοῦ Εὐρωπαϊκοῦ Κοινοβουλίου συμβάλλει στήν ἐπιλογή τῶν ἄρθρων τῶν περιοδικῶν.

— Τήν ἔκδοση Β: Ἔκτακτο δελτίο πού περιλαμβάνει τίς βιβλιογραφικές πηγές σχετικά μέ ὁρισμένο θέμα. Κάθε νεότερη ἔκδοση ἀκυρώνει τήν προηγούμενη.

— Τήν ἔκδοση Γ: Ἔκτακτη συγκεντρωτική βιβλιογραφία. Κάθε τεῦχος εἶναι ἀφιερωμένο σέ ὁρισμένο θέμα τοῦ σχεδιαγράμματος ταξινομήσεως καί ἀναφέρει τίς βιβλιογραφικές πηγές πού ἔχουν περιληφθεῖ στήν ἔκδοση Α ἀπό τῆς ἐκδόσεως τοῦ προηγουμένου ἀθροιστικοῦ καταλόγου γιά τό ἴδιο θέμα.

— Τήν ἔκδοση Δ: Εἶναι ἀφιερωμένη στά περιοδικά ἐνημερώσεως γιά τίς δραστηριότητες τῶν Εὐρωπαϊκῶν Κοινοτήτων.

'Η ἀναφορά τῶν βιβλιογραφικῶν πηγῶν στίς ἐκδόσεις Α καί Γ γίνεται κατά τόν ἀκόλουθο τρόπο:

α) Στή γωνία πάνω ἀριστερά: ἀριθμός σειρᾶς:
Α (Κοινοτικές πράξεις, κλπ.)
Β (ἐπιλεγέντα ἄρθρα)

β) Στό κέντρο: βιβλιογραφικά στοιχεῖα

γ) Στή γωνία κάτω ἀριστερά: δείκτης ταξινομήσεως

δ) Στή γωνία κάτω δεξιά: (ἐνδεχομένως) ἀριθ. μικροφίλμ τοῦ SCAD ἤ ἀριθ. καταλόγου τῆς 'Υπηρεσίας 'Εκδόσεων, ἤ σύμβολο PE (Εὐρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Documentation Bulletin consists of four series.

— Series A: Weekly analytical bulletin listing acts, communications and documents of the institutions as well as articles from periodicals. The texts which have been selected and analysed by the Central Documentation Service (SCAD-IX/C/1) concern the institutions' activities and all related fields.
The documentation service of the European Parliament contributes to the selection of articles from periodicals.

— Series B: Descriptive bulletin. Irregular. Contains bibiographical references on a specified subject. Each new updating cancels the previous one.

— Series C: Cumulative list. Irregular. Each number is devoted to a single subject of the classification scheme and lists the references mentioned in series A since the publication of the previous cumulative list on the same subject.

— Series D: Bulletin mentioning periodicals containing information on the activities of the European Communities.

The actual presentation of references in series A and C is as follows:

a) top left-hand corner: serial number
A (Community acts, etc.)
B (Selected articles)

b) in the centre: bibliographical data

c) bottom left-hand corner: index number of classification

d) bottom right-hand corner: *microfilm number of* SCAD or catalogue number of the Publications Office, or PE abbreviation (European Parliament)

NOTE EXPLICATIVE

Le Bulletin de Renseignements *Documentaires comporte quatre éditions:*

— l'édition A: Bulletin analytique hebdomadaire signalant des actes, des communications et des documents des institutions ainsi que des articles de périodiques. Les textes retenus et analysés par le *Service Central de Documentation (SCAD-IX/C/1) concernent* les activités des institutions et tous les domaines qui s'y rattachent.
Le Service de documentation du Parlement Européen collabore à la sélection des articles de périodiques.

— l'édition B: *Bulletin signalétique à parution irrégulière, comprenant des* références bibliographiques sur un sujet déterminé. Chaque mise à jour annule l'édition précédente.

— l'édition C: Répertoire cumulatif à parution irrégulière. Chaque numéro est consacré à une rubrique du plan de classement et reprend les références citées dans l'édition A *depuis la parution du cumulatif précédent sur le même sujet.*

— l'édition D: est réservée à des périodiques d'information sur les activités des Communautés européennes.

La présentation matérielle des références dans les éditions A et C est la suivante:

a) en haut et à gauche: numéro d'ordre
A (actes *communautaires*, etc.)
B (articles sélectionnés)

b) corps de la notice: *description bibliographique*

c) en bas et à gauche: indices de classification

d) en bas et à droite: (éventuellement) n° de microfilm du SCAD ou n° de catalogue de l'Office des Publications, ou sigle PE (Parlement Européen)

AVVERTENZA

Il Bollettino di documentazione consta di quattro edizioni.

— l'Edizione A: è un bollettino analitico settimanale che segnala atti, comunicazioni e documenti comunitari, come pure articoli selezionati da periodici. I testi selezionati e analizzati dal Servizio Centrale di Documentazione (SCAD-IX/C/1) riguardano le attività delle istituzioni e tutti i settori nei quali esse si esplicano.
Il Servizio di documentazione del Parlamento Europeo collabora alla selezione degli articoli di periodici.

— l'Edizione B: è un bollettino segnaletico non periodico, comprendente i riferimenti bibliografici disponibili su un soggetto *determinato. Ogni aggiornamento ir* i riferimenti bibliografici pubblicati nel precedente bollettino sullo stesso soggetto, e quindi lo annulla.

— l'Edizione C: è un indice cumulativo, non periodico, relativo ad una sezione del piano di *classificazione e contiene tutti i riferimenti bibliografici* nell'edizione A a partire dalla data del precedente indice.

— l'Edizione D: è riservata a periodici d'informazione sulle attività delle Comunità Europee.

La presentazione materiale dei riferimenti bibliografici nelle edizioni A e C è la seguente:

a) in alto a sinistra: numero d'ordine
A (atti comunitari, ecc.)
B (articoli selezionati)

b) al centro: descrizione bibliografica

c) *in basso a sinistra:* *indici di classificazione*

d) in basso a destra: *(se necessario)* numero del microfilm SCAD, o numero di ca *l'Ufficio delle Pubblicazioni* o sigla PE (Parlamento Europeo)

TOELICHTING

Het documentatiebulletin bestaat uit vier uitgaven.

— Uitgave A: Wekelijks analytisch bulletin dat handelingen, mededelingen en dokumenten van de instellingen zowel als artikelen uit tijdschriften signaleert. door de Centrale dienst *documentatie (SCAD-IX/C/1) geselecteerde en geanalyseerde* teksten betreffen de activiteiten van de instellingen en alle gebieden die verband staan. De documentatiedienst van het Europese Parlement werkt mede aan de selectie van tijdschriftartikelen.

— Uitgave B: *Bibliografisch bulletin dat onregelmatig verschijnt en dat referenties* over een bepaald onderwerp bevat. Ieder bijgewerkt nummer vervangt het voorgaande.

— Uitgave C: Cumulatief deel dat onregelmatig verschijnt. Ieder nummer is gewijd aan een rubriek van de classificatie en neemt de gegevens op die in *vanaf de verschijning van het voorgaand deel over hetzelfde* onderwerp werden vermeld.

— Uitgave D: voorbehouden aan de tijdschriften over de werkzaamheden van de Europese Gemeenschappen.

De *gegevens in de uitgaven A en C* worden als volgt vermeld:

a) links boven: volgnummer
A (documenten van de Gemeenschappen enz...)
B (geselecteerde tijdschriftartikelen)

b) midden: bibliografische beschrijving

c) links onder: classificatienummer

d) rechts onder: (eventueel) microfilmnummer (SCAD) of catalogusnummer (Bure Officiële Publikaties) of beginletters PE (Europees Parlement)

ASPECTS OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF CONCERN TO CONSUMERS

Manuscript finished in November 1981

176

A separate chapter of the Commission's Report on "The agricultural situation in the Community" (1) in 1981 is devoted to the aspects of the common agricultural policy of concern to consumers. In view of their economic importance we are reprinting the complete text in question in this issue of "Green Europe".

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Influence of the general economic environment on the consumer

In 1981 as in previous years, consumer behaviour was influenced by the general economic situation.

The main features of the economic situation were as follows:

(i) the general economic climate remained unsatisfactory, as it has done since 1973;

(ii) for 1981, gross domestic product will probably show a reduction of 0.5%, as compared with a 1.1% increase in 1980;

(iii) private consumption in real terms increased by 0.8% in the first quarter, as compared with 1.5% in 1980;

Principal economic indicators, 1981

(%)

Indicator	D	F	I	NL	B	L	UK	IRL	DK	Ellas	EUR 10
GDP by volume ([1]) (estimate)	—0.3	0.5	—0.3	—1.1	—1.0	—3.3	—1 to —2	1.7	0.0	0.4	—0.5
Unemployment as % of total working population (August 1981)	5.2	7.7	10.5	7.7	12.0	1.0	11.0	7.9	8.1	1.0	8.0
Rate of inflation ([2])	6.0	13.7	18.9	7.0	8.1	8.5	11.4	20.1	11.6	23.7	12.4
Increase in private consumption ([1]) (estimate)	—1,3	1,9	—0,1	—3,4	—1,8	0,7	—0,6	—0,2	—1,7	0,3	—0,3

([1]) % change between 1981 and 1980.
([2]) Consumer price index — change in % (August 1981 compared with August 1980).

(iv) unemployment rose steadily and by August 8% of the working population were unemployed (9 million out of work); this represents a 33% rise in one year;

(v) the rate of inflation stayed high, at about 12%, but varied widely from one Member State to another.

Trend in consumption and consumer habits

Given that the annual growth of the total Community population (270 million inhabitants in 1981 in the Community of Ten), has for many years been very low (only 0.2%) changes in the consumption of foodstuffs are mainly the result of changes in consumer habits, prices and disposable incomes.

The trends observed in consumer habits over the last few years have continued for most products.

Per capita consumption of main food products
(average in kg per inhabitant per year in 1977/78, 1978/79, 1979/80)

Product	EUR 9	National range			
		Maximum		Minimum	
Cereals (excluding rice)	83	Italia	127	Nederland	62
Sugar	36	Danmark, Ireland	45	Nederland	29
Potatoes	78	Ireland	105	Italia	38
Vegetables (incl. preserves)	103	Italia	154	Danmark	57
Fruit other than citrus (incl. preserves and fruit juices)	60	Deutschland	86	Ireland	28
Citrus fruit	24	Nederland	53	Ireland	11
Wine (litres)	48	France	96	Ireland	3
Milk (fresh products, other than cream)	101	Ireland	192	Italia	79
Meat (excl. offal)	83	France	98	Italia	71
of which: beef/veal	26	France	33	Danmark	15
pigmeat	36	Deutschland	57	Italia	21
poultrymeat	14	Italia	17	Nederland, Danmark	9
Vegetable oils and fats (average 1978/79)	10	Italia	19	Benelux	4
Butter (fat)	6	Ireland	12	Italia	2
Eggs (incl. processed products)	14	Deutschland	17	Nederland	11

Particular features were as follows:

(i) consumption of cheese, fruit and vegetables increased;

(ii) consumption of beef/veal, sugar and fresh milk products remained stationary;

(iii) consumption of butter was slightly down.

The differences in consumption between the Member States are being reduced because of the number of types of foodstuff offered to Community consumers and because the range of these products is being steadily widened.

Considerable differences remain, however, not only because of consumer habits but also because of disparities in taxation (particularly on wine), health protection legislation and price control.

Security of supply

As in previous years, security of supply of foodstuffs in the Community was ensured by the common agricultural policy; few problems were encountered.

For many products, security of supply is fully guaranteed by Community production (Table), whilst for others it is provided through trade agreements with non-member countries or from public or private buffer stocks.

Classification of the main agricultural products in the Community according to degree of self-supply
(three-year average »1978/79«)

(%)

Exceeding 100%		Around 100%		Below 100%	
Sugar	124	Wheat	108	Grain-maize	60
Poultrymeat	105	Rye	108	Rice	75
Concentrated milk	163	Oats	98	Fresh vegetables	94
Butter	114	Potatoes	101	Fresh fruit (other than citrus)	77
Whole-milk powder	332	Wine	99	Citrus fruit	41
Skimmed-milk powder	111	Eggs	101	Sheepmeat and goatmeat	67
Barley	112	Cheese	104	Vegetable oils and fats	41
		Fresh milk products	100		
		Beef and veal	100		
		Pigmeat	100		

The rate of self-supply for a number of products such as sugar and cereals is continuing to increase despite the substantial surpluses now produced in the Community.

Some of the agricultural products imported under special arrangements are already produced in sufficient quantities, or even in excess, in the Community.

These are mainly:

(i) butter from New Zealand (94 000 tonnes in 1981), i.e. 6% of Community consumption and mostly for the United Kingdom market;

(ii) cheese (about 90 000 tonnes), mainly from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Switzerland and Austria;

(iii) beef/veal (350 000 tonnes) from several non-member countries;

(iv) sugar (1 300 000 tonnes, equivalent to 14% of Community consumption) from the ACP States.

The taut situation on the international sugar market in 1980 forced world prices up steadily to a level well above the Community price. In May 1980 the Community therefore introduced an export levy to prevent the sugar required for the home market being sent to external markets where it could fetch higher prices. In the meantime, the situation on the market has changed and the export levy was discontinued in April 1980.

The common organization of the market thus ensured during this period that the Community consumer was supplied with sugar at prices well below those which would have been charged otherwise.

World demand for milk products was strong in 1981, so that substantial quantities were exported at higher prices than in previous years.

This restored balance to the Community market, which enjoyed ample supplies, whilst intervention stocks were appreciably reduced.

Products for which the Community self-supply rate is relatively low were sufficiently plentiful on the world market to ensure supplies at satisfactory prices.

The fairly low world market prices for vegetable fats, proteins and oilseeds, which are imported at zero or minimal duty into the Community, have enabled animals to be fed at reasonable cost so that pigmeat, poultrymeat, eggs, edible oils, margarine and other vegetable-based fats were available to the consumer at acceptable prices.

Price stability

In view of the general economic climate in the Community and the world at large, the features of which are low growth rates, currency instability, inflation and unemployment, and given the situation on certain agricultural markets, the Community pursued its policy of moderate agricultural prices and stringent market management.

Production costs having risen by 12% and agricultural incomes having declined by 5% to 20% (depending on the Member State), Community agricultural prices in ECU were increased more substantially for 1981/82 than they had been in the three previous years; the increase ranged from 3% to 12%. In most cases the increase was between 7.5% and 11%, the average being 9.4%.

The average price increase in terms of national currency was 10.9%, account being taken of conversion rate realignments.

The following table shows that, in comparison with the Community's inflation rate, agricultural price increases in recent years have been very moderate and restrained.

(%)

	Price increase in EUA/ECU (average)	Price in national currency (average)	Inflation rate in the Community (1)
1977/78	3.9	8.2	10.5
1978/79	2.1	8.6	7.5
1979/80	1.3	7.5	9.9
1980/81	4.8	10.5	13.9
1981/82	9.4	10.9 (3)	12.4 (2)

(1) Consumer price indices (calendar years 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981) — % change over previous years.
(2) August 1981 compared with August 1980.
(3) Not including the currency realignment agreed in October 1981.

Increase in agricultural prices as a result of the 1981 price decisions and adjustments to 'green' rates

The average price increases differed from one member country to another because of the adjustments to the 'green' rates.

In the table below these increases are compared with the inflation rates consumers have had to accept in the Community. These rates vary even more widely from one Member State to another.

The effect of these price increases on retail prices varies from one product to another. The impact on consumer food prices may be estimated at 2.5 to 3%.

The overall effect on consumer expenditure is still less than 1%.

In 1981 as in previous years, the proportion of consumer expenditure that went to food was about 20% for the Community as a whole.

The figure varies from one country to another.

Producer and consumer prices

The cautious price policy applied in the agricultural sector has clearly helped to combat inflation.

A comparison of producer and consumer prices reveals that in most Member States producer prices for agricultural products have risen less than consumer food prices.

There is no close correlation between the movements of producer prices and consumer prices. The latter include the costs of processing, packaging, transport, storage and distribution, which do not necessarily follow the same pattern as producer prices. Food price increases were in fact again fairly restrained in 1981.

Average increase in agricultural prices, in national currencies, and rates of inflation (1)

Member State	1977/78		1978/79		1979/80		1980/81		1981/82	
	Average price increase	Rate of inflation	Average price increase	Rate of inflation	Average price increase	Rate of inflation	Average price increase	Rate of inflation	Average price increase	Rate of inflation (2)
Deutschland	3.9	3.7	0.1	2.7	0.4	4.1	3.5	5.5	5.6	6.0
France	6.7	9.5	10.4	9.3	8.8	10.7	10.4	13.6	12.0	13.7
Italia	12.2	17.0	13.9	12.2	11.5	14.8	15.9	21.2	15.9	18.9
Nederland	4.0	6.4	2.1	4.2	0.6	4.3	4.4	7.0	10.3	7.0
Belgique/België	4.1	7.1	2.2	4.5	0.8	4.5	4.6	6.6	11.0	8.1
Luxembourg	3.7	6.7	2.2	3.1	0.5	4.5	4.2	6.3	10.3	8.5
United Kingdom	7.4	15.9	10.5	8.3	12.0	13.4	11.3	18.0	9.3	11.4
Ireland	10.7	13.7	8.8	7.7	1.4	13.2	5.3	18.2	13.8	20.1
Danmark	10.3	11.1	7.4	10.1	1.3	9.6	14.3	12.4	12.6	11.6
Ellas									12.6	23.7
EUR 9	8.2	10.5	8.6	7.5	7.5	9.9	10.5	13.9	—	—
EUR 10									10.9	12.4

(1) Consumer price index (for calendar years 1977, 1978, etc.) — % change over previous year.
(2) August 1981 compared with August 1980.

Note : The above table does not take account of the currency realignment of October 1981, which brought about a 1.5% increase in French agricultural prices and the introduction of compensatory amounts in the Netherlands. These measures will have little or no effect on consumer prices.

Producer and consumer prices
(% change from 1979 to 1980)

Member State	Producer prices (agricultural products)	Consumer prices (foodstuffs)
Deutschland	2.4	4.4
France	5.6	9.7
Italia	13.4	15.7
Nederland	4.1	3.8
Belgique/België	3.1	3.8
Luxembourg	4.7	8.0
United Kingdom	5.6	11.8
Ireland	2.3	9.3
Danmark	11.2	10.0
Ellas	16.0	15.0
EUR 10	7.9	11.0

World market prices

In 1981 world market prices for many agricultural products continued to be well below those obtaining in the Community; the situation was broadly comparable to that in previous years. The world market prices for some products (e.g. milk products) did, however, show an increase.

It must be remembered that the quantities of agricultural goods traded on the world market generally represent only a small proportion of world output. They depend very closely on fluctuations in supply and demand. Furthermore, the prices obtaining on the world market are not the same as the prices the Community would have to pay if it had to buy large quantities.

World market prices are often residual market prices at which only a small proportion of the commodities on the world market can be purchased.

EAGGF expenditure

In 1981, EAGGF expenditure will have reached 11 571 million EUA, which is 2.3% up on 1980.

Since 1979 the average increase has been 11%, a figure which compares very favourably with the average increase of 23% over the five preceding years.

The rate of growth of EAGGF expenditure has been curbed mainly by a disciplined price policy and stringent management of agricultural markets.

In addition, the relatively favourable world market situation and the monetary situation should make it possible to reduce by 1 300 million ECU the appropriations originally set aside for the EAGGF Guarantee Section for 1981.

Community expenditure on agriculture will once again be running at about 0.5% of Community gross national product.

Monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs), which have the effect of subsidizing imports of agricultural products into Member States with depreciated currencies and which thus help to restrain price increases in such countries, accounted for an estimated 143 million EUA in 1981 (299 million EUA in 1980).

Special measures to benefit consumers

In addition to its moderate price policy and its cautious management of markets, the Community continued to take special measures on behalf of consumers or certain categories of consumers.

In the milk products sector the Community continued to finance butter consumption and the supply of milk and cheese to schoolchildren.

Subsidies for the consumption of butter are authorized throughout the Community but are granted only in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Luxembourg.

In the United Kingdom the scheme receives 100% financing from the Community (up to a maximum of 45.95 ECU per 100 kg) and 75% financing in the other Member States (up to a maximum of 50 ECU per 100 kg).

The subsidy covers 286 000 t in the United Kingdom and 85 000 t in the other Member States. In addition, the import levy on 94 000 t of New Zealand butter has been reduced by an amount equal to the subsidy granted to Community butter.

Special sales of cut-price butter within the Community, such as sales to ice-cream and cake manufacturers and to non-profit-making institutions and bodies, were continued and accounted for some 200 000 t in 1981.

These various measures account for some 550 000 t, or about 35% of Community butter consumption.

The Community contribution towards the programme for the supply of milk and cheese to schoolchildren was maintained for 1981 at the same level as for the previous year.

The Community aid, which is paid at roughly the level of the target price, covers the value of the milk used as the raw material in the manufacture of the products supplied.

The Community also continued, as in previous years, to supply beef from intervention stocks at reduced prices to certain institutions.

In the olive oil sector, the Community maintained its consumer subsidy scheme under which aid is granted so that olive oil can be sold at prices competitive with those for other seed oils. Thanks to this scheme, consumption has picked up somewhat.

Harmonization of laws

As in previous years, the Community pursued its programme of harmonization with the aim, among other things, of safeguarding and reinforcing consumer protection.

In the feedingstuffs sector a number of directives were adopted to bring the use of additives into line with current scientific and technological developments.

This was done by referring to the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition all proposals for the inclusion of new products, such as additives, in the annexes to the Directives. The Committee examines each proposal with special reference to any harmful effects on human or animal health.

In the veterinary sector, the Community continued to apply various measures which have a direct relevance for public health, for example, the health inspection measures applicable to imports from non-member countries and the eradication of diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis and leucosis.

As regards the use of substances with a hormonal or thyrostatic effect on livestock, the Council decided in September 1980 that, in principle, the administration of such substances to livestock would be prohibited except for veterinary purposes.

The Commission has since proposed to the Council legislation which would ensure compliance with this rule and which would introduce effective Community-wide monitoring of the production, distribution and use of any substances which may be used as growth promoters, including checks at stockfarming establishments and slaughterhouses.

In July 1981 the Council reaffirmed the principe underlying this general prohibition. It also decided that the ban would apply immediately to stilbenes and thyrostatic substances. As regards the administration of five substances (oestradiol

17/B, progesterone, testosterone, tremblone and zeranol) used in the fattening of livestock, the Council will take a unanimous decision on a proposal from the Commission, after consulting the competent scientific committees. In the meantime, the stricter national laws and arrangements concerning these substances will continue to apply.

The legislation on the water content of frozen cocks, hens and chickens was to have applied with effect from 1 April 1981. All the necessary steps have been taken at Community level but certain Member States have not yet adopted the national administrative provisions needed to implement this legislation.

Consultation of consumer organizations

The Commission and its staff held regular consultations with groups of consumer organizations at Community level. Of particular note were the consultations between the Consumers' Consultative Committee and the Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture: the main problems arising out of the common agricultural policy were considered and discussed.

These meetings were preceded by talks between the Commission staff and agricultural experts from the Committee. The consumers were also consulted, through their representatives on the agricultural advisory committees, on the implementation of various items of Community legislation. Similarly, the Commission staff attended a number of meetings organized by consumer organizations and the Consumers' Consultative Committee.

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