

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(74) 618 Final

Brussels, 2 May 1974

PROPOSAL FOR A
REGULATION (EEC) OF THE COUNCIL
modifying Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71 as regards the fat content
of whole milk

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. According to Articles 3 and 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71⁽¹⁾ of 29 June 1971, all whole milk delivered to consumers in the Community must have a fat content of at least 3.5%.

As a transitional measure, Article 6(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71 laid down that Member States were able to maintain the arrangements existing in their territories until the entering into force of this Regulation, i.e. up to 31 December 1973. In accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 3478/73⁽²⁾ of 17 December 1973, the Commission was able to put back this date to 31 May 1974.

2. At the Special Agricultural Committee, several delegations have expressed the wish that the date of 1 June 1974 currently foreseen for the introduction of this new level of 3.5% be further put back thus avoiding an increase in price and the consequent fall in consumption, that would arise out the increase in the fat content, which would seem undesirable in the light of current policy.
3. Under these conditions it seems appropriate to put back the date for the introduction of this uniform fat content to 31 December 1975, the date up to which a fat content lower than 3.5% is authorised in the United Kingdom under Article 89(1) of the Act of Accession.
4. This is the aim of this proposed Regulation which, moreover, takes account of the fact that the European Parliament, at the time of the approval of the last modification to Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71, suggested an examination in more detail of the effects that an increase in the level of fat content in liquid milk, would have on retail prices under the current conditions. (See doc. 2451/73/ASS 1452 of the Council, 19.12.73). The proposed extension to the date will allow the Commission to undertake such an examination.

(1) CJ No L 148, 3. 7.1971, p. 4

(2) CJ No L 357, 28.12.1973, p. 7

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Proposition for a
REGULATION (EEC) OF THE COUNCIL

modifying Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71 as regards the fat content of
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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas, according to the second indent of Article 3(1)(b) and to Article 6(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71⁽¹⁾ of 29 June 1971 laying down additional rules on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products for products falling within heading 04.01 of the Common Customs Tariff, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3478/73⁽²⁾, all whole milk delivered to consumers must have a fat content of at least 3.5%; whereas under the terms of Article 6(2) of this Regulation Member States are allowed, up to 31 May 1974, to maintain the arrangements existing in their territories until the entering into force of the said Regulation;

Whereas certain Member States are, in the current situation, experiencing some difficulties in applying the fat content of 3.5% after 1 June 1974; whereas, moreover, Article 89 of the Act of Accession⁽³⁾ authorises in the United Kingdom up to 31 December 1975, the delivery of whole milk to the consumer with a fat content of less than 3.5%;

Whereas, for these reasons, it is appropriate to maintain the current situation up to 31 December 1975;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

(1) OJ No L 148, 3. 7.1971, p. 4

(2) OJ No L 357, 28.12.1973, p. 7

(3) OJ No L 73, 27. 3.1972, p. 14

Article 1

In Article 6(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71:

- (1) The date of "31 December 1973" is replaced by "31 December 1975",
- (2) The second paragraph is deleted.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety
and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President