



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

20 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
Telephone: 01-727 8090

August 19, 1975

APPROXIMATION OF LAWS ON JAMS AND MARMALADES

Commission Proposal to Liberalise Trade

The Commission has submitted to the Council a proposal for a directive on the approximation of laws of member states relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and chestnut purée. Its purpose is to allow free trade in these products between member states, which the existing laws tend to hinder.

The proposal is an amended version of one originally submitted by the Commission in 1965. The new proposal has been drafted after consultation with representatives of consumers and manufacturers. It takes fully into account the situation of the three new member states, where customs and practices in respect of jams and marmalades differ appreciably from those of the original Community.

In fact, the proposal follows closely the lines recently agreed by the member states for international standards for these products in the context of the United Nations "Codex Alimentarius".

As far as consumers are concerned, the proposal will broaden their range of choice of jams and marmalades by allowing free movement between member states for products conforming to the standards proposed in the directive.

Products not corresponding to the standards can continue to be manufactured and marketed under national laws and in accordance with labelling regulations; so the directive will not prevent the marketing of traditional or local products.

Consumers will also benefit from the provisions for more informative labelling: for example, under the proposed standards, jams will be labelled 'first quality' or 'standard quality' according to the degree of fruit content, and the designation 'marmalade' will be reserved exclusively for produce made from citrus fruits, except in Denmark where the term is used in a generic sense.

The Commission's proposal is also being sent to the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee for their opinion.

+++++