



*European Communities  
Commission  
Press Release*

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MILK DELIVERIES ARE NOT UNDER THREAT

Some press reports from the Council of Ministers meeting in Luxembourg this morning implied that doorstep deliveries of milk in the United Kingdom were threatened in the current discussions on the future of the Milk Marketing Boards. This is not the case.

The discussions centre on a proposal of the Commission that Community law be adapted in such a way that the main work of the milk boards can continue, subject to the agreement of a large proportion of producers, thus removing risk of the boards' monopoly buying powers being challenged under EEC competition law.

Whether or not the Commission's proposal is adopted by the Council, there is no reason to suppose that the British milk distribution system together with doorstep deliveries would disappear. The delivery of pintas to the consumer's doorstep is a commercial operation. It is carried out by companies which buy their milk from the milk marketing boards or by producers who are licensed by the boards to retail their own milk. As long as daily milk deliveries are commercially viable they will continue, no matter what adjustments might be made in legal status of the organisations which buy milk from farmers.

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