

European Communities

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Working Documents

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 60/75) for a regulation extending to certain products processed from potatoes the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No. 1067/74 on the common organization of the market in dehydrated fodder

Rapporteur: Mr I. FRUH

PE 40.449/fin.



By letter of 24 April 1975 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 42 and 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation extending to certain products processed from potatoes the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No. 1067/74 of the Council on the common organization of the market in dehydrated fodder.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 17 April 1975 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Früh rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meetings of 22 and 23 April and 12 May 1975.

At its meeting of 12 May 1975 the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vetrone and Mr Laban, vice-chairmen; Mr Früh, rapporteur; Mr Brégégère, Mr Frehsee, Mr Hansen, Mr Martens, Mr Brøndlund Nielsen, Mrs Orth and Mr Scott-Hopkins.

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A

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation extending to certain products processed from potatoes the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No. 1067/74 on the common organization of the market in dehydrated fodder

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities¹ to the Council and the amendments made to it in the Commission's letter of 6 May 1975,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 42 and 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 60/75),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 96/75);

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No. C 96, 29 April 1975, p. 9

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. At its meeting of 23 March 1974 on the fixing of agricultural prices the Council of Ministers also considered a number of proposals¹ put forward by the Commission in its memorandum for the improvement of the common agricultural policy², including a proposal for safeguarding the Community's protein supplies. This had suddenly become a pressing problem in the Community as a result of the temporary suspension of soya bean exports from the United States. The question to be considered was thus what steps could be taken to reduce the Community's dependence, at least in part, on imported protein animal feed. The Council decided, therefore, to introduce a regulation to encourage soya bean cultivation in the Community, to include field beans in the common organization of the market in seed and to establish a common market organization for artificially dehydrated fodder³.

2. On 30 April 1974 the common organization of the dehydrated fodder market was established⁴. Under this regulation production aid is to be granted for artificially dehydrated fodder⁵, which is considered a particularly useful means of improving the production of the protein needed in animal feeding. This dehydrated fodder is foremost among Community plant products containing protein. In the marketing year 1972/73, they accounted for as much as 256,000 metric tons out of a total raw protein production of 550,000 metric tons. The production aid should ensure that the revenue per hectare earned by farmers who grow green fodder for processing into artificially dehydrated fodder is comparable with the revenue from the cultivation of wheat and sugar beet, the main competitors of green fodder, so that there is a continued or even an added advantage to the farmer in cultivating this type of crop. The aid should also help to ensure that dehydrated fodder remains competitive in the face of soya bean prices.

¹ See Doc. 338/73

² See Doc. 251/73

³ See report by Mr Scott-Hopkins (Doc. 366/73) on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, 12 February 1974

⁴ See O.J. No. L 120, 1 May 1974, p. 2

⁵ Namely lucerne, clover, lupins, vetches and similar forage products, excluding hay and kale forage

3. At its meeting of 10 and 11 February 1975 to fix agricultural prices, the Council agreed, on a proposal from the Commission, to extend the system of aid for dehydrated fodder to dehydrated potatoes used for animal feed as from 1 April 1975, pending adoption of the Regulation on the common organization of the potato market¹. The Council gives no further explanation of this decision in its press release. However, as potatoes contain an appreciable amount of protein in addition to their high carbohydrate content and are widely used as fodder in certain parts of the Community, it is a useful step to include them in the production aid system.

4. The first two articles of the Commission's proposal define the scope of Regulation No. 1067/74, now extended to dehydrated potatoes, and establish the dates of the marketing year for the fodder crops concerned. In its basic decision taken in February of this year, the Council announced its intention of extending the marketing year for other types of dehydrated fodder to dehydrated potatoes used for animal feed. Since, however, the artificial dehydration of newly harvested feed potatoes does not begin until July at the earliest, it would be more sensible to start the marketing year on 1 July.

5. As the European Parliament has on a number of occasions called for an increase in the Community's production of animal feed protein, your committee proposes that Parliament should approve this proposal for a regulation.

¹ See Notice to Members (PE 39.922) - Council Press Release No. 174/75 - Presse 20

