

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses (Codified version)'

(COM(2004) 290 *final* – 2004/0090 (COD))

(2004/C 241/08)

On 4 May 2004, the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Articles 95 and 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the 'Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses'.

The Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its opinion on 6 May 2004. The rapporteur was Mr Donnelly.

At its 409th plenary session on 2 and 3 June 2004 (meeting of 2 June 2004), the European Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion by 171 votes to three with nine abstentions.

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification Council Directive 89/398/EEC of 3 May 1989 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses. The new Directive will supersede the various acts incorporated in it; this proposal fully preserves the content of the acts being codified and hence does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

2. General comments

The Committee regards it as very useful to have all the texts integrated into one Directive. In the context of a People's

Europe, the Committee, like the Commission, attaches great importance to simplifying and clarifying Community law so as to make it clearer and more accessible to ordinary citizens, thus giving them new opportunities and the chance to make use of the specific rights it gives them.

3. It has been ensured that this compilation of provisions contains no changes of substance and serves only the purpose of presenting Community law in a clear and transparent way. The Committee expresses its total support for this objective and, in the light of these guarantees, welcomes the proposal.

Brussels, 2 June 2004.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Roger BRIESCH