

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on extraction solvents used in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients'

(COM(2003) 467 *final* — 2003/0181 (COD))

(2004/C 80/12)

On 9 September 2003 the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the above-mentioned proposal.

The Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, which was instructed to prepare the Committee's work on this matter, adopted its opinion on 13 November 2003. The rapporteur was Mr Donnelly.

The Committee adopted the opinion set out below at its 404th plenary session held on 10 and 11 December 2003 (meeting of 10 December) by 109 votes for, one against and two abstentions.

1. Introduction

1.1. The purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification of Council Directive 88/344/EEC of 13 June 1988 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on extraction solvents used in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients. The new Directive will supersede the various Directives incorporated in it; their content is fully preserved, and they are brought together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

1.2. 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.

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, 10 December 2003.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Roger BRIESCH