


Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	Procedure completed
Food additives other than colours and sweeteners Amending Directive 95/2/EC 1992/0424(COD)	
Subject 3.10.10 Foodstuffs, foodstuffs legislation 4.60.04.04 Food safety	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	ELDR RIIS-JØRGENSEN Karin	21/11/1995
	Former committee responsible		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	ELDR RIIS-JØRGENSEN Karin	21/11/1995
	Former committee for opinion		
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Environment	1978	09/12/1996
	Environment	1939	25/06/1996

Key events			
16/05/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0177	Summary
12/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
22/02/1996	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
22/02/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0055/1996	
28/03/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
28/03/1996	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0153/1996	Summary
21/05/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0212	Summary

25/06/1996	Council position published	07367/1/1996	Summary
19/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
09/10/1996	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
09/10/1996	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0312/1996	
22/10/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
23/10/1996	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0521/1996	Summary
09/12/1996	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
19/12/1996	Final act signed		
19/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/03/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0114(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
	Amending Directive 95/2/EC 1992/0424(COD)
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 100A
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/07990

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1995)0177 OJ C 163 29.06.1995, p. 0012	16/05/1995	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1156/1995 OJ C 018 22.01.1996, p. 0020	25/10/1995	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0055/1996 OJ C 096 01.04.1996, p. 0003	22/02/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0153/1996 OJ C 117 22.04.1996, p. 0030-0036	28/03/1996	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1996)0212 OJ C 208 19.07.1996, p. 0015	21/05/1996	EC	Summary
Council position		07367/1/1996 OJ C 315 24.10.1996, p. 0009	25/06/1996	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position		SEC(1996)1245	02/07/1996	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0312/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0006	09/10/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0521/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0051-0079	23/10/1996	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex
Final act	
Directive 1996/85 OJ L 086 28.03.1997, p. 0004 Summary	

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

The Commission proposed amending Directive 95/2/EC with a view to including carrageenan refined via an alternative method in the list of food additives authorised within the European Union. Carrageenan (E407) was the official name for a highly refined extract used as a gelling agent in desserts and meat. ?

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

The ESC approved the proposal subject to the following amendments. The Commission was invited to choose a more meaningful name than ?alternatively refined carrageenan?. This name should be totally different from carrageenan E407 in order to avoid any confusion. The ESC suggested ?Eucheuma Gum? as a possibility. In addition, the E number should be clearly different from that used for carrageenan; the ESC proposed E408.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

A draft report for a first reading (under the co-decision procedure) of a Commission proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 95/2/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on food additives other than colours and sweeteners (PE 215.507- Mrs Karin RIIS-JØRGENSEN - ELDR, Dk). Carrageenan (E 407) is the official name for a highly refined seaweed extract of this kind. Another less purified product with a similar use is Processed Eucheumaa Seaweed (PES). The committee thought this would mislead the consumer and amended the proposal to retain the name Processed Eucheumaa Seaweed and give it a new number of its own, E 408. It also decided that PES would not be permitted in foodstuffs for children under the age of 18 months. The process used to refine carrageenan (E 407) results in a virtually pure end product. The process used to produce PES, however, leaves the end product with a residue of 10 to 15 per cent insoluble acid matter. PES may also contain heavy metals and/or microbial substances. In her explanatory statement, the rapporteur, Mrs Karin RIIS-JØRGENSEN - ELDR, Dk), thinks that consumer confidence in the Community's labelling system would be severely dented if, with this Directive, the Commission set a precedent for the marketing of different products under virtually the same name and E number. The proposal is expected to the House for approval at the part-session in March. If adopted, it will then return to the Commission and Council for further consideration under the co-decision procedure.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

In adopting the report by Mrs Karin RIIS-J-RGENSEN (ELDR), the European Parliament approved the proposal subject to an amendment calling for 'Processed Eucheuma seaweed' to be registered under its own denomination and classified as 'E408' and not as 'Alternatively refined carrageenan', classified as 'E407', in order to ensure that consumers were correctly informed. The EP also called for processed Eucheuma seaweed not to be used in foodstuffs for children under the age of 18 months. ?

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

Explaining that the proposal did not alter the provisions of Directive 95/2/EC, which authorised the use of certain additives in foodstuffs for children, Commissioner Wulf-Mathies considered that the annotation of Amendment No 1 was superfluous; however, she stated that she was prepared to accept Amendment 2, while rejecting Amendment No 1.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

The Commission's amended proposal incorporated the European Parliament's amendment concerning the change in the denomination of the substance ("processed Eucheuma seaweed"), which was in accordance with the denomination used in international trade. However, the Commission rejected the amendments concerning the assignment of number E408 and the non-use of the additive in babyfoods (Directive 95/2/EC already prohibits the use of additive E407a in babyfoods).?

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

The common position of the Council took into account the amendment by the European Parliament calling for the denomination of the substance to be changed into 'Processed Euchema seaweed', but retained the reference number, E407a, proposed by the Commission. The Council also accepted the principle that the additive should not be permitted in foodstuffs for children under the age of 18 months. ?

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

The Commission accepted the common position, which was identical to the amended proposal.?

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

Philippine seaweed exporters were dealt a blow today when the Consumer Protection Committee refused to accept their product in the same category as an existing seaweed gelling agent sold in the EU for use in desserts and meat. In a draft recommendation (codecision, second reading) prepared by Mrs Karin RIIS-JØRGENSEN , the committee decided not to put Processed Euchema Seaweed, which the Philippines wants to export to the Community, in a subcategory (E 407a) of the highly refined seaweed extract Carrageenan (E 407) but to give it its own category (E 408). The Committee maintains that Processed Euchema Seaweed is a less purified product which could cause health risks. Putting it in a similar category to Carrageenan, which is has an established market, could mislead consumers. ?

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

The rapporteur, Mrs Rijs-Jorgesen (ELDR, DK), maintained that processed euchema seaweed, which was produced in the Philippines, was a less purified product than the seaweed-based extract used in the EU (carrageenan) and for this reason could not be placed in the same category (E407). Commissioner Bjerregaard's only reply was to call on Parliament to reject the amendment, since the product in question had been judged as entirely acceptable by the International Scientific Committee on Food.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

In adopting the report by Mrs Karin RIIS-J-RGENSEN (ELDR, DK), Parliament approved the common position of the Council concerning the amendment of the 1992 Directive on food additives other than colours and sweeteners. For want of a qualified majority, the EP was unable to adopt the single amendment proposed with regard to the Euchema seaweed. ?

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

OBJECTIVE: to amend Directive 95/2/EC to include processed Euchema seaweed in the list of food additives permitted within the European Union. COMMUNITY MEASURE: European Parliament and Council Directive 96/85/EC amending Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners. SUBSTANCE: the Directive permits the marketing and use in the European Union of the additives designated 'processed Euchema seaweed', assigned number E407a. DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE: 04/04/1997 DEADLINE FOR TRANSPOSITION : 28/06/1997 ?