Maximum levels for pesticide residues (amend. direct. 76/895/EEC, 86/362/EEC, 86/363/EEC, 90/462/EEC)

1995/0154(CNS) - 15/07/1996

In adopting the Breyer report(Gr,G), the Environment committee rejected this method and plumped for an across-the-board approach for all pesticides based on precautionary principle, ie opting for the lowest detectable quantity of pesticide residue as the maximum limit in order to be on the safe side. Accordingly, the committee decided that the maximum permissible level of residues of any individual pesticide in and on foodstuffs should be limited to 0.01 mg/kg. The sum of the residues of all the pesticides in foodstuffs must not exceed 0.05 mg/kg. Rejecting the Commission's view that the proposed directive was primarily an agricultural matter, the committee decided that its legal base should be article 100a of the EC Treaty rather than article 43 as proposed by the Commission. Article 43 covers only agricultural matters and provides simply for consultation of Parliament, whereas Article 100a includes environmental and consumer protection and gives Parliament power of co-decision with the Council.