Cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption

1996/0112(COD) - 03/03/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

The amended proposal of the Commission incorporated in whole or in part three amendments adopted by the European Parliament concerning: - the reference to Community rules on additives used in foodstuffs; - the clearer definition of 'gianduia' and of 'gianduia' milk chocolate; - indication on the labelling of the use of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter, in addition to the list of ingredients and on the same side of the packaging as the sales name. However, the position on the labelling must be left freely to the discretion of the manufacturer. The Commission rejected the amendments concerning: - taking into account the Community's international obligations, in particular under the International Cocoa Agreement; - deletion of the wording concerning adaptation of the Directive on chocolate to technological progress and changes in consumer tastes; - the development of reliable methods of analysis before the proposal for a Directive enters into force; - taking into account the interests of ACP countries and the conclusion of long-term contracts with them; - the restriction of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter to tropical fats not obtained using enzymatic production processes; - deletion of the derogation concerning the designation 'milk chocolate' in the United Kingdom and Ireland; - the delegation of powers to the Commission to define methods of analysis for precise detection of vegetable fats; - assessment of the Directive's impact on exports from ACP countries; - indication of the quantity of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter in the list of ingredients; - the ban on indications or wording on the labelling relating to quality criteria for chocolate products derived exclusively from cocoa; - the reference to chocolate as a natural product and the use of natural manufacturing processes.