




Basic information	
1996/0166(COD) 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		BREYER Hiltrud (V)	25/09/1996	
	Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		BREYER Hiltrud (V)	25/09/1996	
	Former committee for opinion		Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
		Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)		2051	1997-11-27
		Agriculture and Fisheries		2118	1998-09-28
Environment		2076	1998-03-23		

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/09/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0303 	Summary
16/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
24/09/1997	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary

24/09/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0281/1997	
22/10/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
14/01/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0656 	Summary
23/03/1998	Council position published	12896/1/1997	Summary
29/04/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
23/06/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
23/06/1998	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0242/1998	
14/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		Summary
28/09/1998	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
15/10/1998	Final act signed		
15/10/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/11/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/0166(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Amendments and repeals	Amending Directive 95/2/EC 1992/0424(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 100A
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/09934

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0281/1997 OJ C 325 27.10.1997, p. 0004	24/09/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0508/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0091-0145	23/10/1997	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0242/1998 OJ C 226 20.07.1998, p. 0004	23/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0425/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0053-0065	15/07/1998	Summary
Council of the EU				

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Council position	12896/1/1997 OJ C 161 27.05.1998, p. 0029	23/03/1998	Summary	
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0303  OJ C 076 11.03.1997, p. 0034	04/09/1996	Summary	
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1997)0656  OJ C 077 12.03.1998, p. 0007	14/01/1998	Summary	
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1998)0585 	31/03/1998	Summary	
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1504/1996 OJ C 075 10.03.1997, p. 0001	18/12/1996	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Directive 1998/0072 OJ L 295 04.11.1998, p. 0018	Summary

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 31/03/1998 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission accepts the common position, as it adheres to the principles of the initial proposal and accords with the amendments adopted by the European Parliament.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 04/09/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE : amending Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colourants and sweeteners, with a view to adapting it to recent scientific and technical developments. SUBSTANCE: the proposed amendment to Directive 95/2/EC merely allows already authorized food additives to be used in certain new categories of food which are not included in the Directive. These products have been on the market for several years and the entry into force of the Directive would prohibit their marketing. Furthermore, the proposal for amendment takes into account certain foodstuffs manufactured in the new Member States which are not covered by the Directive and in which certain additives are used. Some new food additives, which are currently

prohibit and which were recently evaluated by the Scientific Committee for Food and found acceptable for human consumption, are included in the proposal. No further changes can be made to the conditions of use laid down in the Directive until the results of the consumer surveys required by the basic Directive are available.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 15/10/1998 - Final act

PURPOSE : to amend Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Directive 98/72/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. CONTENT : The amendments to the Directive authorise: - the use of certain already authorised additives in certain new categories of foodstuffs that do not yet fall within the scope of the Directive; - certain foodstuffs manufactured with certain additives in the 'new' Member States, which are not covered by the existing Directive; - certain new food additives currently prohibited which, following evaluation by the Scientific Committee for Food, were considered fit for human consumption. The main changes are as follow : - the inclusion of flour treatment agents within the scope of the Directive and the exclusion of enzymes; - the repeal of the entry on thiabendazole; - the repeal of E 507 (hydrochloric acid) in mozzarella and E 905 (microcrystalline wax) as a glazing agent for rice; - the authorisation of treatment of Mascarpone with nisin and peaches and pineapples with waxes. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 04/11/1998. The Member States have undertaken to : -authorise trade in products conforming with this Directive by 4 May 2000 at the latest; - prohibit trade in products not conforming with this Directive from 4 November 2000.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 14/01/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission decided to amend its proposal and accepted amendments concerning: - permission of sulphites in distilled alcoholic beverages with whole pears; - permission to use E 468 crosslinked sodium carboxymethylcellulose in solid dietary supplements; - extension of use of E 442 ammonium phosphatides to sugar confectionary; - extension of use of E 414 acacia gum in formulae and weaning foods for infants and young children in good health; - addition of E 472 citric acid esters of mono and diglycerides of fatty acids and E 473 sucrose esters of fatty acids; - permission of use of E 304 L-ascorbyl palmitate, E 331 sodium citrate, E 332 potassium citrate, E 339 sodium phosphate, E 340 potassium phosphate, E 472 c citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids, E 473 sucrose esters of fatty acids in infant formulae and follow-on formulae for infants in good health; - extension of use of E 333 calcium citrate and E 341 tricalcium phosphate in weaning foods for infants and young children in good health; - permission of use of E 401 sodium alginate, E 405 propane 1.2 diolalginate, E 410 locust bean gum, E 412 guar gum, E 415 Xanthan gum, E 440 pectin, E 466 sodium carboxymethyl cellulose and E 471 mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids in foods for special medical purposes. The Commission did not accept amendments concerning: - requirements on labelling provisions; - prohibition of E 1103 invertase; - change of the maximum levels of sulphites allowed in sugars as defined in Directive 73/437/EEC, except glucose syrup, whether or not dehydrated; - not permitting the use of sulphites in marinated nuts and in maximum levels of 1500 mg/kg in dehydrated apples and pears with a moisture content of more than 12% not sold to the end consumer; - not permitting the use of additives in Annex VI (parts 1, 2 and 3) in foods for infants and young children for special medical purposes.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 23/03/1998 - Council position

The common position of the Council takes account of the amendments in the Commission's amended proposal concerning provisions relating to distilled alcoholic beverages with whole pears, E 468 (sodium carboxymethylcellulose) in solid dietary supplements, E 442 (ammonium phosphatides) in sugar confectionery and food additives in infant formulae and follow-on formulae, weaning foods and preparations for young children for special medical purposes. However, the Council departed from the amended proposal by accepting, wholly or in part, the 6 amendments rejected by the Commission. It also introduced amendments to the proposal concerning both the form and content of the text. 1) Flour treatment agents: the Council included flour treatment agents in the field of application of Directive 95/2/EC, but excluded enzymes used for the same purpose. It also included E 930 (L-cysteine) used solely as a flour treatment agent; 2) Limitation on the use of food additives in certain foodstuffs: the Council amended the list of food additives which can be used in a new category of non-emulsified oils and fats of animal or vegetable origin prepared specially for cooking, frying or sauces. It also amended the list of additives allowed in sterilised cream; 3) Ban on the use of food additives in certain foodstuffs: the Council included the amendments by the European Parliament abolishing E 507 (hydrochloric acid) in mozzarella and E 905 (microcrystalline wax) as a glazing agent for rice. It deleted the entry 'water-based flavoured drinks' under the use of E 473 (sucrose esters of fatty acids) and E 474 (sucroglycerides). Finally, it deleted E 233 (thiabendazole) for treating the surface of fruit and vegetables; 4) Extension to the use of food additives already authorised: the Council authorised the use of certain food additives already authorised in new categories of foods: E 440 (pectin) in pineapple and passion fruit juices and nectars; E 200-203 (sorbates) in olives and olive-based preparations; E 220-228 (sulphites) in vacuum-packed sweetcorn; E 445 (glycerol esters of wood rosin) for treating the surface of fruit and vegetables; waxes (E 901-904) for treating the surface of peaches and pineapples; E 551-559 (silicates) in anti-caking agents and E 234 (nisin) in mascarpone. In addition, additives E 338-452 (phosphates) may be used in the following foods: jams, fruit sauces, tinned shellfish, water-based emulsions as humectants in confectionery and coffee-based drinks for automatic vending machines. It should be noted that the Council agrees with the European Parliament: - not to amend the level of E 220-228 (sulphites) in dehydrated apples and pears; - to reduce the level of E 220-228 (sulphites) in sugars to 10 mg/kg; - to authorise the use of E 957 (thaumatin) as a flavour enhancer in water-based, non-alcoholic flavoured drinks and milk-based and milk-free desserts.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 23/10/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Hiltrud BREYER (Green Group, D) Parliament fundamentally amended the proposal for a directive, rejecting a whole list of proposed food additives. Parliament was opposed to the use of new additives in pasteurised cream and sterilized milk or to the authorization to new additives seeking to prolong the period of conservation of certain fruit and vegetables, enhance the taste of margarine, sweeten chewing gum or give rice a shinier appearance. It also opposed the use of an additive which might increase the sugar content of soft drinks for children. Finally, it rejected proposals concerning the use of sulphur-based products in dried apples and pears and hydrochloric acid in mozzarella. However, Parliament did not adopt the recommendation by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection that processed eucheuma seaweed (E 407a), a jellifying additive exported by the Philippines be reclassified as E 408, so as to avoid confusion with carrageenan, which is regarded as purer.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 15/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

Parliament rejected all the amendments by Mrs Hiltrud BREYER (Greens, D) on food additives other than colours and sweeteners and thus adopted the Council's common position as it stood.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

1996/0166(COD) - 18/12/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Economic and Social Committee approves the Proposal for a Directive amending the General Additives Directive (95/2/EC), which mainly involves applications of existing additives other than colours and sweeteners, as necessary and urgent subject to some comments. The current amendment procedure involving Council and Parliament is complicated and results in an extremely long time scale to adapt additives to new developments. In addition, there is a real need for having a procedure which involves the citizen adequately. The Committee therefore suggests the following compromise: - changes involving new additives should continue by a Council and Parliament procedure; - changes involving only changes in application should be made by a Committee procedure involving the Standing Committee for Foodstuffs, prior consultation of the various socio-economic partners represented on the Advisory Committee for Food. In general if there are no health limitations it is best to have the widest choice of alternatives on the list of additives, thus reducing the consumption of any particular one. The Committee has also a number of detailed comments on the Annexes, which concern sections 3 and 9 and also those referring to Sorbates, Sulphites, Phosphates and talc.