

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EC) No 2597/97 laying down additional rules on the common organisation of the market in milk and milk products for drinking milk

(1999/C 70/11)

COM(1999) 63 final — 1999/0048(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission on 12 February 1999)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas Article 4(d) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2597/97 ⁽¹⁾ lays down that drinking milk must have a fat-free dry matter content of 8,5 % (m/m) or more for milk containing 3,5 % (m/m) of fat or an equivalent content in the case of milk having a different fat content; whereas it has been found that raw milk in some Member States does not attain the rate specified for part or all of the year; whereas that situation could jeopardise drinking milk supplies in certain regions of the

Community; whereas in view of the restrictions laid down in Article 3(2) regarding modification of the fat-free dry matter of milk and the other additional requirements laid down in Article 4, point (d) should be deleted with effect from its entry into force,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 4(d) of Regulation (EC) No 2597/97 is deleted.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from 1 January 1999.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 351, 23.12.1997, p. 13.