

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.90.175

14 June 1990

Special Distribution

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>FINLAND</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [x], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], Other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Milk and milk products
5. Title: Act on Control of the Quality and Production of Milk and Milk Products (available in Finnish, 22 pages)
6. Description of content: This bill contains an Act on Control of the Quality and Production of Milk and Milk Products. This involves a total revision of the Milk Control Act and the Act on Export and Import Control of Certain Milk Products, and the new act is to replace both the old ones. An effort has been made to take into account the present and future international development in the control of milk, milk products and similar products, particularly with a view to the European Community. The purpose of the Act is to protect the consumers and other users of milk, milk products derived from it and similar products used as foods, from health hazards and economic damage. The Act will be applied to cow's milk, and if necessary to the milk of other animals, as laid down by decree, to products derived from such milk and to other similar products. The Act will concern milk, milk products, and similar products produced in Finland or imported for domestic consumption, and also milk, milk products, and similar products exported from Finland. The Act gives authorization to issue more detailed instructions on the hygienic quality of milk, milk products and similar products, and on the conditions under which these are produced and manufactured, and on the control of these.

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6. (cont'd)

The export and import control of milk, milk products, and similar products will be carried out by the State Control Office for Dairy Products, which will inspect export or import lots. The State Control Office could also give its approval for the import of milk, milk products, and similar products without inspection, if the State Control Office has ascertained that their quality and conditions under which they are produced and manufactured and the control of these correspond to the principles in this Act and in the regulations issued under it. This bipartite control procedure is in agreement with the expected developments in international trade.

At present regulations on milk products have been issued under three different laws. This bill is intended to clarify the legislation. Not only will the two acts mentioned above be replaced by the new act proposed in this bill, but a redistribution of tasks is proposed in relation to the Food Act. In those matters where expert knowledge is to be found within the administrative area of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, such as retail package labelling, names conforming to good commercial practice, composition requirements, sales packages and additives, regulations will be issued under the provisions of the Food Act. On the other hand, matters concerning the microbiologic quality of milk products and similar products, i.e. medicines, hormones and biocides, and heavy metals and other contaminants and substances influencing the hygienic properties of these products, will be regulated under the provisions of this Act.

7. Objective and rationale: Consumer protection

8. Relevant documents: The Act will be published in the Statutes of Finland.

9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: 1 January 1992

10. Final date for comments: 7 September 1990

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [x] or address of other body: