

Directive 2000/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 June 2000 relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption

*Article 1*

This Directive shall apply to the cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption, as defined in Annex I.

*Article 2*

1 The vegetable fats other than cocoa butter as defined in Annex II and listed therein may be added to those chocolate products defined in Annex I(A)(3), (4), (5), (6), (8) and (9). That addition may not exceed 5 % of the finished product, after deduction of the total weight of any other edible matter used in accordance with Annex I(B), without reducing the minimum content of cocoa butter or total dry cocoa solids.

2 Chocolate products which, pursuant to paragraph 1, contain vegetable fats other than cocoa butter may be marketed in all of the Member States, provided that their labelling, as provided for in Article 3, is supplemented by a conspicuous and clearly legible statement: 'contains vegetable fats in addition to cocoa butter'. This statement shall be in the same field of vision as the list of ingredients, clearly separated from that list, in lettering at least as large and in bold with the sales name nearby; notwithstanding this requirement, the sales name may also appear elsewhere.

3 Any amendments to Annex II shall be made in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 95 of the Treaty.

4 At the latest by 3 February 2006 the Commission shall, in accordance with Article 95 of the Treaty, submit, if necessary and taking into account the results of an appropriate study on this Directive's impact on the economies of those countries producing cocoa and vegetable fats other than cocoa butter, a proposal intended to amend the list in Annex II.

*Article 3*

Directive 79/112/EEC shall apply to the products defined in Annex I, subject to the following conditions:

1. The sales names listed in Annex I shall apply only to the products referred to therein and must be used in trade to designate them.

However, those sales names may also be used additionally and in accordance with the provisions or customs applicable in the Member State in which the product is sold to the final consumer, to designate other products which cannot be confused with those defined in Annex I.

2. Where the products defined in Annex I(A)(3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (10) are sold in assortments, the sales names may be replaced by 'assorted chocolates' or 'assorted filled chocolates' or similar names. In that case, there may be a single list of ingredients for all the products in the assortment.

3. The labelling of the cocoa and chocolate products defined in Annex I(A)(2)(c), (2)(d), (3), (4), (5), (8) and (9) must indicate the total dry cocoa solids content by including the words: 'cocoa solids:... % minimum'.

4. For the products referred to in Annex I(A)(2)(b) and (2)(d) (second part of the sentence), the labelling must indicate the cocoa butter content.

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5. The sales names ‘chocolate’, ‘milk chocolate’ and ‘couverture chocolate’ specified in Annex I may be supplemented by information or descriptions relating to quality criteria provided that the products contain:
- in the case of chocolate, not less than 43 % total dry cocoa solids, including not less than 26 % cocoa butter,
  - in the case of milk chocolate, not less than 30 % total dry cocoa solids and not less than 18 % dry milk solids obtained by partly or wholly dehydrating whole milk, semi- or full-skimmed milk, cream, or from partly or wholly dehydrated cream, butter or milk fat, including not less than 4,5 % milk fat,
  - in the case of couverture chocolate, not less than 16 % of dry non-fat cocoa solids.

#### *Article 4*

For the products defined in Annex I, Member States shall not adopt national provisions not provided for by this Directive.

#### *Article 5*

[<sup>F1</sup> The following measures necessary for the implementation of this Directive and designed to amend non-essential elements of it, *inter alia*, by supplementing it, shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 6(2):

- measures bringing this Directive into line with general Community provisions applicable to foodstuffs,
- measures adapting the provisions of Annex I(B)(2), (C) and (D) to technical progress.]

2 At the latest by 3 August 2003, without prejudice to Article 2(3), the European Parliament and the Council shall re-examine, on a proposal from the Commission, the second indent of paragraph 1 of this Article, with a view to possible extension of the procedure of adaptation to technical and scientific progress.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** Substituted by [Regulation \(EC\) No 1137/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 adapting a number of instruments subject to the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty to Council Decision 1999/468/EC, with regard to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny](#)  
Adaptation to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny — Part One.

#### *[<sup>F1</sup>Article 6*

1 The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, set up by Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>(1)</sup>

2 Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5a(1) to (4) and Article 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.]

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#### *Article 7*

Council Directive 73/241/EEC is hereby repealed with effect from 3 August 2003.

References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Directive.

#### *Article 8*

1 Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive before 3 August 2003. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

2 These measures shall be applied so as to:

- authorise the marketing of the products defined in Annex I if they conform to the definitions and rules laid down in this Directive, with effect from 3 August 2003,
- prohibit the marketing of products which fail to conform to this Directive, with effect from 3 August 2003.

However, the marketing of products failing to comply with this Directive but labelled before 3 August 2003 in accordance with Council Directive 73/241/EEC shall be permitted until stocks are exhausted.

3 When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by the Member States.

#### *Article 9*

This Directive shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

#### *Article 10*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

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(1) [<sup>F1</sup>OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1.]

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