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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
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Subject:	Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption - Optional consultation of the Committee of the Regions ¹

1. On 21 April 2023 the Commission submitted to the Council the Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

¹ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

2. The proposed revisions to the said Directives aim, inter alia, to help consumers make more informed choices for a healthier diet and contribute to prevent food waste. They include, among others, provisions on:
- **Origin labelling:** Clearer, mandatory origin labelling rules for **honey blends**.
 - **Fruit juices:** it will be possible for fruit juices to bear the mention “no fruit juices contain added sugars” to clarify that, contrary to fruit nectars, fruit juices cannot by definition contain added sugars – a feature that most consumers are not aware of. Moreover, to address the growing consumer demand for products with lower sugar content, a reformulated fruit juice would be allowed to indicate “reduced-sugar fruit juice” on its label. To simplify further and adapt to consumer tastes, the term “coconut water” could now be used alongside “coconut juice”.
 - **Jams and marmalades:** the **fruit content of jams will be increased** from 350 grams to 450 grams minimum (from 450 grams to 550 grams for quality extra) per kilo of finished product. The term “marmalade”, authorised until now for a product made of citrus fruits, would now be allowed for all jams to introduce the possibility to adjust the name of the product to that most used locally.
4. Article 37 of the Treaty establishing the European Community (Amsterdam consolidated version) is the legal basis of the four Directives subject to this revision. The proposal for amending those Directives is based on Article 43 TFEU, which provides for the European Parliament and for the Council to act in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee. Thus, in principle, the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions is not required. However, taking into account the subject matter of the proposal in question and its possible impact for public and private entities also on sub-national level, it would appear appropriate to also consult the Committee of the Regions on the present Proposal.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the Committee of the Regions on the above Proposal and to request it to give its opinion as soon as possible.