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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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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 - Comments from the Austrian delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex the comments from the Austrian delegation on the above-mentioned proposal.

Honey

The proposal on honey is aimed at reducing the risk for consumers being misled by the labelling of honey blends with origin.

Do you think that the proposed change will sufficiently reduce that risk? You are welcome to motivate your answer.

Austria supports the proposal as it aims to harmonize rules on country of origin labelling with regard to honey blends. We believe that this change will help to prevent the risk of misleading consumers.

Will the proposed change have any negative consequences on the administrative burden for producers and/ or packers?

To what extent could this have an impact on the price to consumers?

The proposed amendment may affect packaging costs therefore we could support the exemption for small packages.

Some Member States have, in the Council, expressed a wish to see a requirement for labelling with a percentage/ share of the honey. If you propose this, can you see that Member State's control authorities will be able to verify this information?

Austria supports the labelling of the shares of honey with regard to honey blends. It will be an important improvement for consumers. We are flexible on the approach how to achieve information that can be controlled, eg labelling in connection with thresholds.

Fruit juices

Do you agree to the inclusion of a category of fruit juice with reduced sugar?

YES.

Do you agree that membrane filtration and yeast fermentation are to be authorised processes? (Is it sufficient to meet technical innovation?)

Will the requirement "all the other essential characteristics should remain unchanged" be an obstacle to placing these products on the market?

Jams and marmalades

In the proposal on jam and marmalade the quantity of fruit required in jam and extra jam is increased.

Do you agree with the increase in the quantity of fruit required in jam and extra jam?

YES. Austria agrees with the increase of the quantity of the fruit required in the jam.

To what extent will these products improve health and sustainability?

It is our opinion that less sugar will improve the sugar intake of the population.

Do you agree with opening up for the term marmalade to be used also for jams?

YES. In Austria we use the term „marmalade“ for all fruits, eg. „Marillenmarmelade“ (apricot marmalade).

Additional proposal:

The wording should be changed from "citrus marmalade" (as proposed) to "marmalade" so that the currently used terms "orange marmalade", "lemon marmalade"... could be continued to be used.

We do not support:

"Orange marmalade made from citrus fruits".

"Lemon marmalade made from citrus fruits".

Do you expect that the increased requirement for fruit content may have an impact on the price to the consumer?

Additional proposal Annex II Part II:

*„II. Die in Abschnitt I definierten Erzeugnisse müssen mindestens 60 % lösliche Trockenmasse (Refraktometerwert) enthalten; hiervon ausgenommen sind die Erzeugnisse, **die eine nährwertbezogene Angabe in Bezug auf einen reduzierten Zuckeranteil gemäß der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1924/2006 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates*** tragen**, und die Erzeugnisse, bei denen Zucker ganz oder teilweise durch Süßungsmittel ersetzt wurde.*

Additional proposal Annex II:

Not only the third dash should be amended

Saft von Zitrusfrüchten, **auch konzentriert**, bei aus anderen Früchten hergestellten Erzeugnissen: ausschließlich in Konfitüre, Konfitüre extra, Gelee, Gelee extra

but also dashes 2, 4, 5

- Fruchtsaft, **auch konzentriert**: ausschließlich in Konfitüre;
- Saft aus roten Früchten, **auch konzentriert**: ausschließlich in Konfitüre und Konfitüre extra aus Hagebutten, Erdbeeren, Himbeeren, Stachelbeeren, roten Johannisbeeren/Ribiseln, Pflaumen und Rhabarber;
- Saft aus roten Rüben, **auch konzentriert**: ausschließlich in Konfitüre und Gelee aus Erdbeeren, Himbeeren, Stachelbeeren, roten Johannisbeeren/Ribiseln und Pflaumen;

Milk

Do you agree with authorising a treatment to produce lactose free dehydrated milk (similar to what is already possible for liquid milk)?

Answer not finalized yet.

