

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.89.312

20 December 1989

Special Distribution

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 Trade and Industry
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): Foodstuffs
5. Title: Decree on Labelling of Foodstuffs (available in Finnish, 6 pages)
6. Description of content: A working group set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry has drafted a new Finnish decree relating to labelling of foodstuffs. The draft essentially follows the relevant EC regulations and conforms to a considerable degree to the joint Nordic proposal for harmonized rules. Probably the most crucial change is that ingredients and additives could in future be stated as a single group, instead of stating them separately as before. For composite foodstuffs each ingredient would have to be specified separately wherever it accounts for 5 per cent or above of the finished product (cf. EC: 25 per cent). Each of the allergens contained in a composite foodstuff would always need to be specified. The country of origin of the foodstuff would normally have to be indicated wherever it does not otherwise appear from the labelling. Should the labelling of a foodstuff give special prominence to an ingredient because it is particularly typical for the product, the amount of the ingredient concerned would have to be stated either as a percentage by weight of the whole foodstuff at the time of manufacture or, under specific conditions, as a percentage by weight of the finished product. According to the draft, the indication of dates would essentially correspond to the EC requirements. The provisions concerning the language(s) would conform to those in force under the existing national Food Decree. The proposed new decree is designed to enter into force as from 1 June 1990. For manufacturers, importers and similar merchants a transition period ending on 31 December 1991 would be available. Still after that date, the retailer could sell foodstuffs to consumers or mass caterers if delivered to him before the said date.

7. Objective and rationale: Consumer protection
8. Relevant documents: The Decree will be published in the Statutes of Finland.
9. Proposed dates of adoption and <u>entry into force</u> : 1 June 1990
10. Final date for comments: 31 March 1990
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [x] or address of other body: