

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.92.367

17 November 1992

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: Draft Decision of Ministry of Trade and Industry on Nutritional Labelling for Foodstuffs (available in Finnish, 8 pages and English, 7 pages)
6. Description of content: The Decision concerns nutrition labelling for foodstuffs to be delivered to consumers or to mass caterers. Nutrition labelling is optional; only where the nutrition claim appears on the labelling, nutrition labelling shall be compulsory. Where nutrition labelling is provided, the information shall have a special format. Stated shall be either (1) energy value, the amounts of protein, carbohydrate and fat or (2) energy value, the amounts of protein, carbohydrate, sugars, fat, saturates, fibre and sodium. Claims relating to reduced content of energy (light, low energy, reduced energy) are permitted where the change corresponds to a reduction of at least 30 per cent of the content which a similar product provides at the same weight. Eighteen months are allowed to manufacturers to adapt their labelling in order to comply with the new provisions. - The Decision is identical with the EEC Council Directive on Nutrition Labelling for Foodstuffs (90/496/EEC). Moreover it contains a definition for "fibre" and for claims related to reduced content of energy. Neither of them is until now defined in the EEC regulations.
7. Objective and rationale: Consumer protection
8. Relevant documents: Directive 90/496/EEC
9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: Entry into force: 1 January 1993
10. Final date for comments: 30 November 1992
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: