

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
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27 May 1994
Special Distribution

(94-0935)

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. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Foodstuffs
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Draft Food Act (available in Finnish, 17 pages and English, 22 pages)
6.	<p>Description of content: The Commission set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry has compiled a paper written in the form of a Government proposal on the Food Act. The Act would repeal the Food Act from 1941 and the Food Decree from 1952.</p> <p>The rules and regulations given by virtue of the Food Act would remain in force until otherwise stipulated in pursuance on this Act.</p> <p>The Commission proposes that food control would embrace export as well and to some extent also transit of foodstuffs. The Act would also call for compilation of a yearly separate nation-wide food control programme, which should be observed as a guideline. The Commission also proposes that food control would be based on equal fees for all entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The proposed Act would cover foodstuffs and articles coming into contact with food. Consumer goods would be covered by the Product Safety Act.</p> <p>The scope of the Food Act is proposed to be extended to cover advertising and other sales promotion activities of foodstuffs, deliveries free of charge, and also deliveries where the deliverer is not an entrepreneur.</p> <p>The administrative procedures are proposed to be similar to the practice in corresponding other Acts. Subordinate making of norms is proposed to be devolved from Decree level to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.</p>

7.	Objective and rationale: To ensure the health-related quality of foodstuffs and to protect the consumer against damage to human health.
8.	Relevant documents:
9.	Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: Entry into force: 1 January 1995
10.	Final date for comments: 22 July 1994. The document will be issued in the Statutes of Finland.
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body: