



Notification Number: 2005/588/F

Draft Order on the procedures for printing the health message on the packaging units of alcoholic drinks, recommending that pregnant women do not consume alcohol

Date received : 28/10/2005
End of Standstill : 30/01/2006 (02/05/2006)
Issue of comments by : Hungary, Italy, Netherlands
Issue of detailed opinion by : Belgium, Czech Republic, Spain

Message

Message 002

Communication from the Commission - SG(2005) D/52555
Directive 98/34/EC
Translation of the message 001
Notification: 2005/0588/F

No abre el plazo - Nezhajuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist.

(MSG: 200502555.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 002 IND 2005 0588 F EN 30-01-2006 28-10-2005 F NOTIF 30-01-2006

2. Member State

France

3. Department Responsible

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3. Originating Department



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4. Notification Number

2005/0588/F - C60A

5. Title

Draft Order on the procedures for printing the health message on the packaging units of alcoholic drinks, recommending that pregnant women do not consume alcohol

6. Products Concerned

Alcohol: labelling

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

Within the framework of the Act of 11 February 2005 on the rights of disabled persons, a new provision has been adopted, intended to improve public information, and more specifically information for pregnant women, on the dangers of alcohol consumption for the foetus.

Thus, Article L.3322-2 of the Public Health Code lays down that "all packaging units of alcoholic drinks shall bear, under the conditions laid down by order of the Minister responsible for Health, a health message recommending that pregnant women do not consume alcohol".

The aim of draft Order is to establish the practical procedures for health message labelling on the packaging units of alcoholic drinks.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Foetal alcohol syndrome is the primary non-genetic cause of mental handicap in children. This measure therefore has a place in this draft Act. Out of 750,000 births each year in France, approximately 3,000 children are born with foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS).

This is unacceptable since these handicaps are avoidable. The only measure liable to avoid these handicaps is abstinence from consuming alcohol during pregnancy. This is one of the main recommendations of the World Health Organisation.

This measure is part of a group of actions:

- the Act of 9 August on public health policy already makes information on the health risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy compulsory in primary schools and secondary schools. This Act also lays down training of all health professionals and professionals in the medical-social sector on the effects of alcohol on the foetus;



- in 2004 and 2005, the first media campaign on the prevention of foetal alcohol syndrome was launched in the women's press and among the general public;
- epidemiological monitoring of foetal alcohol syndrome is currently under way: foetal alcohol syndrome will thus be looked for systematically by the doctor during the practical examination to fill in the health certificate on the eighth day after delivery.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- Article L.3322-2 of the Public Health Code (Act of 11 February 2005 on the rights of disabled persons)

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

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12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

- a) No

14. Fiscal measures

- b) No

15. Impact assessment

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16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT aspect (Agreement on technical barriers to trade)

- a) Yes

SPS Aspect (Agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures)

- a) No

- b) The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure within the meaning of Annex A to the SPS Agreement.

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