

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(94) 395 final

Brussels, 27.09.1994

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

amending Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89 as regards the
total alcoholic strength by volume of certain
quality wines imported from Hungary and Romania

(presented by the Commission)

Explanatory memorandum

Under Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89, since the end of 1989 the Community has granted a derogation from the "Community 15% vol. alc. rule" for certain high-quality wines originating in Hungary (in particular Tokaj wines), permitting the import into the Community of wines having a total alcoholic strength by volume above the usual maximum limit of 15%. This derogation, granted to Hungary for an initial trial period of nine months and then extended several times pending the conclusion of a bilateral agreement on trade in wine between the Community and Hungary, expired on 31 August 1994.

The purpose of this proposal is to grant that derogation for an indefinite period, as the Community committed itself to doing when concluding the Agreement with Hungary on the reciprocal protection and control of wine names. In addition, and in accordance with the undertaking made on the conclusion of the similar Agreement with Romania, this proposal provides for a similar indefinite derogation for certain high-quality Romanian wines. The two Agreements referred to above entered into force on 1 March 1994 (Romania) and 1 April 1994 (Hungary).

Budgetary consequences: this proposal has no financial consequences for the Community budget.

Impact on SMEs: there will be no impact on the competitiveness of SMEs and no addition to their costs.

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No/94

of1994

amending Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89 as regards the total alcoholic strength by volume of certain quality wines imported from Hungary and Romania

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 of 16 March 1987 on the common organization of the market in wine⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1891/94⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 70(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas under Article 70(1)(b) of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87, wines intended for direct human consumption, other than sparkling wines and liqueur wines, originating in third countries may not be imported into the Community if they have a total alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 15% vol;

Whereas under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89 of 7 December 1989 on the total alcoholic strength by volume and the total acidity of certain imported quality wines and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2931/80⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2606/93⁽⁴⁾, a derogation was granted from this principle for certain third-country wines pursuant to Article 70(2)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87; whereas the derogation applicable to certain Hungarian wines was granted for a trial period which expired on 31 August 1994;

(1) OJ No L 84, 27.3.1987, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 197, 30.7.1994, p. 42.
(3) OJ No L 232, 9.8.1989, p. 1.
(4) OJ No L 239, 24.9.1993, p. 6.

Whereas on conclusion of the Agreements between the European Community and Hungary and Romania on the reciprocal protection and control of wine names⁽⁵⁾ the Community undertook to grant the derogation applicable to Hungarian wines for an indefinite period and to grant a similar derogation for certain high-quality wines originating in Romania; »whereas Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89 must therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89 is hereby amended as follows:

1. The following point (d) is added to paragraph 1:

"(d) wines originating in Romania, whose total alcoholic strength by volume exceeds 15% vol, without enrichment, where they are designated by "VSOC" or "Vinuri de calitate superioara cu denumire de origine si trepte de calitate" (wine of superior quality with a designation of origin and degree of quality) and having one of the following geographic indications:

- Cernavoda
- Cotnari
- Medgidia
- Murfatlar
- Nazarcea
- Pietroasa."

2. In paragraph 2, the words "For the purposes of paragraph 1(b) and (c)," are replaced by "For the purposes of paragraph 1(b), (c) and (d),".

3. Paragraph 3 is deleted.

(5) OJ No L 337, 31.12.1993, pp 94 and 178.

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Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Article 1(3), however, shall apply from 1 September 1994.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

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