

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1984-1985

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2 April 1984

DOCUMENT 1-61/84

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the Community Viticultural Land Register

Rapporteur: Mr C. STELLA

PE 89.194/fin.

Or. It.



On 7 February 1983, the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr DIANA, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the establishment of the viticultural land register in Italy, to the Committee on Agriculture.

On 20 April 1983, the Committee on Agriculture decided to draw up a report and, on 26 May 1983, it appointed Mr C. STELLA rapporteur.

The committee considered the draft report at its meeting of 20 and 21 March 1984 and adopted the motion for a resolution at the same meeting by 20 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Curry, chairman; Mr Früh, Mr Colleselli, Mr Delatte, vice-chairmen; Mr Stella, rapporteur (deputizing for Mr Dalsass); Mr Barbagli (deputizing for Mr Diana), Mr Blaney, Mr Davern, Mr Gatto, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr Keating (deputizing for Mr Lynge), Mr Ligios, Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr Maher, Mr McCartin (deputizing for Mr Clinton), Mr M. Martin (deputizing for Mr Pranchère), Mrs S. Martin, Mr Mertens, Mr O'Donnell (deputizing for Mr Tolman) and Mr Vgenopoulos.

The report was tabled on 23 March 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the Community viticultural land register.

The European Parliament

- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr DIANA on the establishment of the viticultural land register in Italy (Doc. 1-1189/82);
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-61/84);
- A. Whereas in 1962 (1) the Community proposed that a viticultural land register should be established and whereas in July 1982, on the occasion of the adoption of the new basic regulations for the wine sector, the Council of Ministers reaffirmed the essential need for a viticultural land register;
- B. Whereas the implementation of the viticultural land register would be facilitated, particularly in terms of cost, by the experience acquired and, in particular, by applying the aerial photography and photo-analysis techniques employed for the establishment of the olive grove register;
- C. Whereas an accurate assessment of actual Community production is necessary if the new regulation on the wine market is to be fully effective;
- D. Whereas the present demands of the wine sector require not only regular updated statistical surveys but above all modern services with the markets' rapid development;
- E. Whereas the control system necessitated by an increasingly complex market organization would be made more effective and functional by a viticultural land register;

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(1) Regulation (EEC) 143/62 of 23.11.1962

- F. Whereas such an instrument would be a useful help to public administrations in combating fraud and thereby protecting consumers.
1. Requests the Commission to establish a Community viticultural land register as a matter of urgency, using, wherever possible, methods similar to those employed in the olive sector which has already provided valuable reference material;
  2. Considers that the viticultural land register can provide objective and accurate information on all the Community's wine-growing resources and their agricultural and varietal characteristics, so that quality can be improved and production can be adjusted to market demands;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTBackground

1. In 1962 (1) and 1964 (2) the Community adopted provisions for the establishment of a viticultural land register in the wine producing Member States.

The difficulties encountered and the judgment passed by the Court of Justice (3) (which stated that a Member State had failed to comply with the above-mentioned Community provision) prompted the Council to come back to the subject and adopt a regulation in 1978 establishing a system of statistical surveys of areas under vines (4). Unfortunately some Member States have not yet completed these statistical surveys. In 1982 (5), the Council began to consider the need to set up a viticultural land register and expressed this intention when adopting the recent reform of the common organization of the market in wine (6).

Nature of the viticultural land register

2. This viticultural land register is a new and modern instrument compared to the 1962 proposal since it is not based on the mere collection of statistical data but makes use of techniques and equipment which are more accurate and more suited to the control and management of a sector such as this.

The method already used in the olive sector consists of the following basic elements:

- aerial photography of the area concerned;
- superimposing cadastral maps over the photographs obtained;

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(1) Regulation (EEC) No. 24 OJ No. 30 of 20.04.1962, p. 989  
 Regulation (EEC) No. 143 OJ No. 127 of 1.12.1962, p. 2789  
 (2) Regulation (EEC) No. 26/64 OJ No. 48 of 19.3.1964, p. 753  
 (3) Case 33/69 Reports 1970 pages 93-107  
 (4) Regulation (EEC) No. 357/79 OJ No. L 54 of 5.3.1979, p. 124  
 (5) Council Document No. 6927/78 of 14.5.1982, Annex I  
 (6) Regulation (EEC) No. 2144/82 OJ No. L 227 of 3..8.1982, p. 1

- noting the characteristics of plants in order to determine production potential;
- reconstituting the productive units of undertakings, using appropriate forms;
- assembling the collected data (and cross-checking them) in a computer which then draws up the definitive land register;
- once the land register is established, it should serve as a basis for coordinating (and thus controlling) applications from wine-growers for vinification, distillation, storage, re-planting etc.

3. It is easy to imagine the vast potential of such a land register which, by means of simple electronic processing, can provide information classified according to territorial areas, communes, farms, the age and/or variety of vines, production potential etc.

#### Reasons for a viticultural land register

4. Management of such an important production sector as that of wine growing (which is facing increasing problems in production and marketing) requires accurate information not only on the agricultural characteristics of vineyards but also on wine-growers' activities, the ways in which Community provisions are used, compliance with regulations and obligations, the effect of aid, etc.

The traditional type of viticultural land register cannot provide all this information: the old register was in fact merely based on forms containing the replies given by wine-growers (who were not always willing to answer or provide details) to non-specialist investigators. As a result, it consisted of a series of volumes full of figures which were updated on the basis of different censuses, ie generally every 8-10 years.

5. A land register of the type used in the olive sector is the best instrument for obtaining objective and accurate information on all vineyard plots and their agricultural characteristics, determining the wine growing potential of each plot (and then each undertaking, taking into account the various types of wine), establishing intervention programmes adapted to each area, and permitting continuous and real-time management of all this information. The land register, unlike mere statistical surveys, would also permit a further series of measures:



control of the system of premiums for the grubbing-up of vines, assessment of the volume of production compared to the available land area, effective management of the distillation mechanism, and therefore management of market regulation measures in general.

6. The proposal to draw up a Community viticultural land register would, in addition, be particularly easy to implement in Italy since, as mentioned earlier, the work on establishing an olive grove register is at a very advanced stage. Indeed all the land in Central and Southern Italy below the 600/700 metre-level has already been photographed from the air (or will be in the very near future) for this purpose, and therefore much of the time and resources which were necessary in compiling the olive grove register will be saved.

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Document 1-1189/82)

tabled by Mr DIANA

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the establishment of the viticultural land register in Italy

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas in 1962<sup>1</sup> the Community proposed that a viticultural land register should be established and whereas in 1978<sup>2</sup>, because of the difficulties involved in achieving that goal, a system of statistical surveys was proposed,
- B. whereas these statistical surveys have yet to be completed, since those in Italy and Greece are still in progress,
- C. whereas in July 1982 (on the occasion of the adoption of the new basic regulations for the wine sector) the Council of Ministers reaffirmed the crucial need for a viticultural land register,
- D. whereas the work on establishing an olive grove register is, by contrast, at a very advanced stage and whereas the use of aerial photography has made possible the rapid compilation of data in nine Italian provinces; whereas, moreover, a count of olive trees using photo analysis techniques is already in progress,
- E. whereas at a subsequent stage about eight million hectares, equivalent to about half Italy's agricultural land, will be photographed from the air,
- F. whereas an accurate assessment of actual Community production is necessary if the new regulation on the wine market is to be fully effective,
- G. whereas the necessary preparation of a viticultural land register would be facilitated, particularly in terms of cost, by applying the aerial photography and photo analysis techniques already employed for the olive grove register,
1. Considers it essential to establish a viticultural land register using methods similar to those employed in the olive sector;
  2. Points out that an appropriate decision must be taken rapidly so that use can be made of the data which is already available or will shortly be available for the olive grove register;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

1 Regulation (EEC) 143/62 of 23.11.1962

2 Regulation (EEC) 357/79 of 5.2.1979 - 10.: