

European Communities

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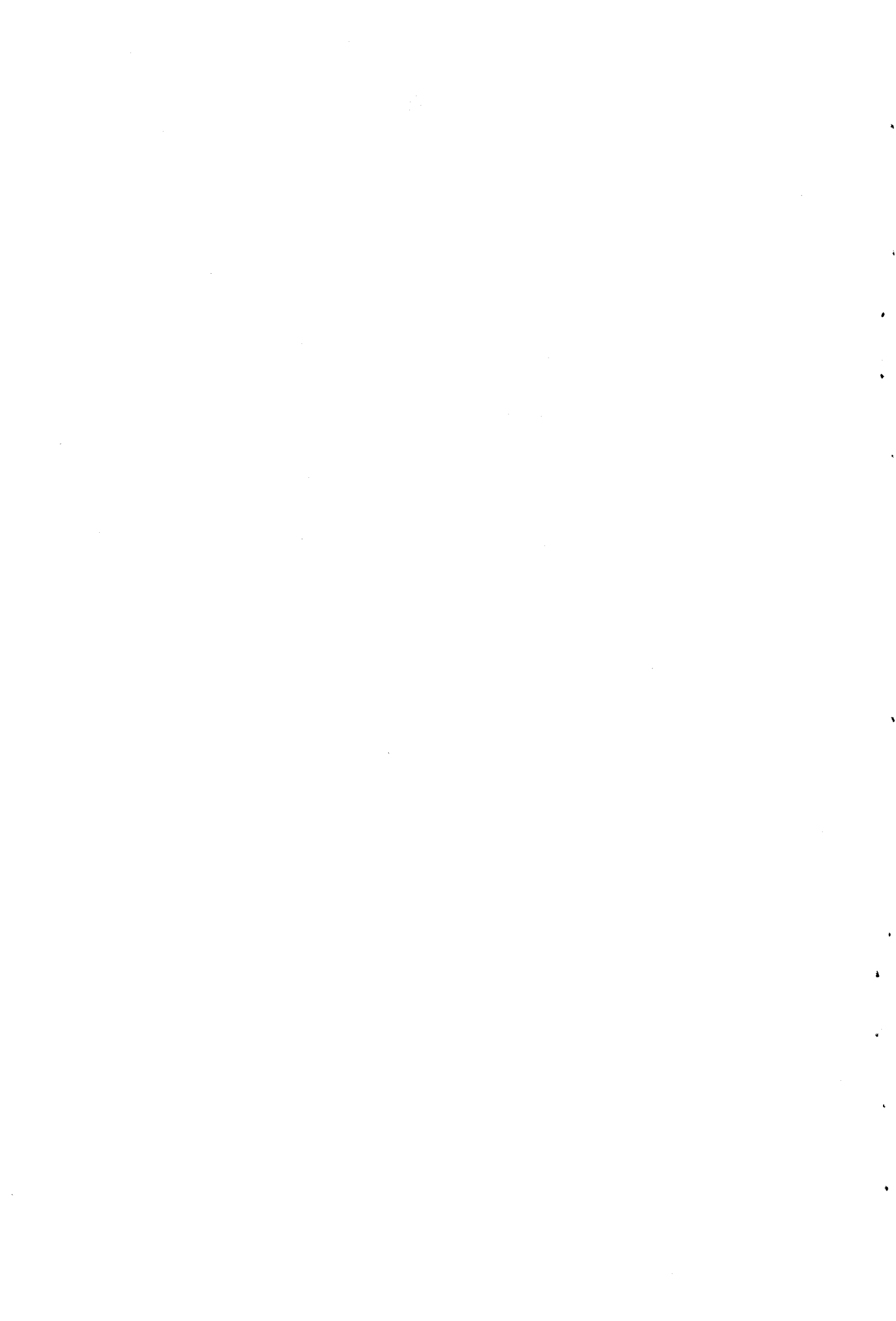
DOCUMENT 254/75/ANNEX

OPINION

of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on
Associations

on a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council
(Doc. 204/75) for a regulation laying down special rules for the importation of
products in the wine-growing sector originating in certain third countries

PE 41.584/fin.



OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Draftsman: Mr BREGEGERE

On 17 September 1975 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr BREGEGERE draftsman.

At the same meeting it considered the draft opinion and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr Kaspereit, chairman; Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Bermani and Mr Boano, vice-chairmen; Mr Brégégère, draftsman; Mr Bayerl, Mr Bersani, Lord Castle, Mr De Clercq, Mr Dunne, Mr Dykes, Mr E. Muller, Mr Nyborg, Mr Radoux, Mr Schulz, Mr Spicer, Mr Thornley and Mr Vetrone.

1. The present proposal for a regulation is the result of a compromise reached in the Council on 24 June 1975, opening the way for further negotiations between the European Community and the Maghreb countries for the conclusion of new preferential agreements.

2. It is well-known that these negotiations had been blocked for some considerable time since certain Member States, especially Italy, were afraid that the competition from certain products, including North African wine, might be too much for their own agriculture.

3. The main provisions of the proposal are as follows:

- With regard to wine from third countries for which there are special tariff concessions in force the Common Customs Tariff duty rates may be imposed if the free-at-frontier reference price (i.e., the reference price¹ referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70² less the customs duties actually levied) is not applied.
- Depending on the number of such cases and without prejudice to any measures that may be adopted on the basis of Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 (countervailing charges) it may be decided that any future imports originating from a non-member country that has failed to respect the free-at-frontier reference price shall be subject to the duty in the Common Customs Tariff.
- Any measures taken on the basis of Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 and Article 2(3) of this regulation shall be subject to monthly review.

It is open to question whether the solutions proposed take sufficient account of the following two objectives: effective protection of the internal market and the maintenance of vigorous trade relations with the countries of the Mediterranean.

The Committee on External Economic Relations approved the present regulation bearing in mind the difficulties which would otherwise be in store for Italy. At the same time it should be ensured that the tariff concessions to be granted to the Maghreb countries will be substantiated.

¹ Reference prices shall be based on the guide prices for the most representative kinds of red and white table wine produced in the EEC plus the cost of bringing EEC wine to the same marketing stage as imported wine.

² OJ No L 99, 5 May 1970

OPINION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE

Draftsman : Mr BOANO

On 23 September 1975 the Associations Committee appointed Mr Boano draftsman and at the same meeting adopted the draft opinion unanimously.

Present: Mr Schuijt, chairman; Mr Hansen, Mr De Clercq and Mr Couste, vice-chairmen; Mr Boano, draftsman; Mr Barnett, Lord Bethell, Mr Corrie, Mr Patijn and Mr Vandewiele.

1. The present proposal for a regulation is the result of a compromise reached in the Council on 24 June 1975, opening the way for further negotiations between the European Community and the Maghreb countries for the conclusion of new preferential agreements.
2. It is well-known that these negotiations had been blocked for some considerable time since certain Member States, especially Italy, were afraid that the competition from certain products, including North African wine, might be too much for their own agriculture.
3. The main provisions of the proposal are as follows:
 - With regard to wine from third countries for which there are special tariff concessions in force the Common Customs Tariff duty rates may be imposed if the free-at-frontier reference price (i.e. the reference price¹ referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70² less the customs duties actually levied) is not applied.
 - Depending on the number of such cases and without prejudice to any measures that may be adopted on the basis of Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 countervailing charges) it may be decided that any future imports originating from a third country that has failed to respect the free-at-frontier reference price shall be subject to the duty in the Common Customs Tariff.
 - Any measures taken on the basis of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 and Article 2(3) of this regulation shall be subject to monthly review.

The question is whether the proposed solutions take sufficient account of the following two objectives : effective protection of the internal market and the maintenance of rigorous trade relations with the countries of the Mediterranean.

The Associations Committee approves the present regulation bearing in mind the difficulties which would otherwise be in store for Italy. At the same time it should be ensured that the tariff concessions to be granted to the Maghreb countries will be substantiated. Association agreements were concluded with Morocco and Tunisia as long ago as 1969 on the basis of EEC Treaty Article 238, and most Member States have continued to accord generalized preferences to Algerian produce on the basis of EEC Treaty Article 227(2), even though Algeria became independent in 1962.

¹ Reference prices shall be based on the guide prices for the most representative kinds of red and white table wine produced in the EEC plus the cost of bringing EEC wine to the same marketing stage as imported wine.

² OJ No L 99, 5 May 1970.