

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 716 final

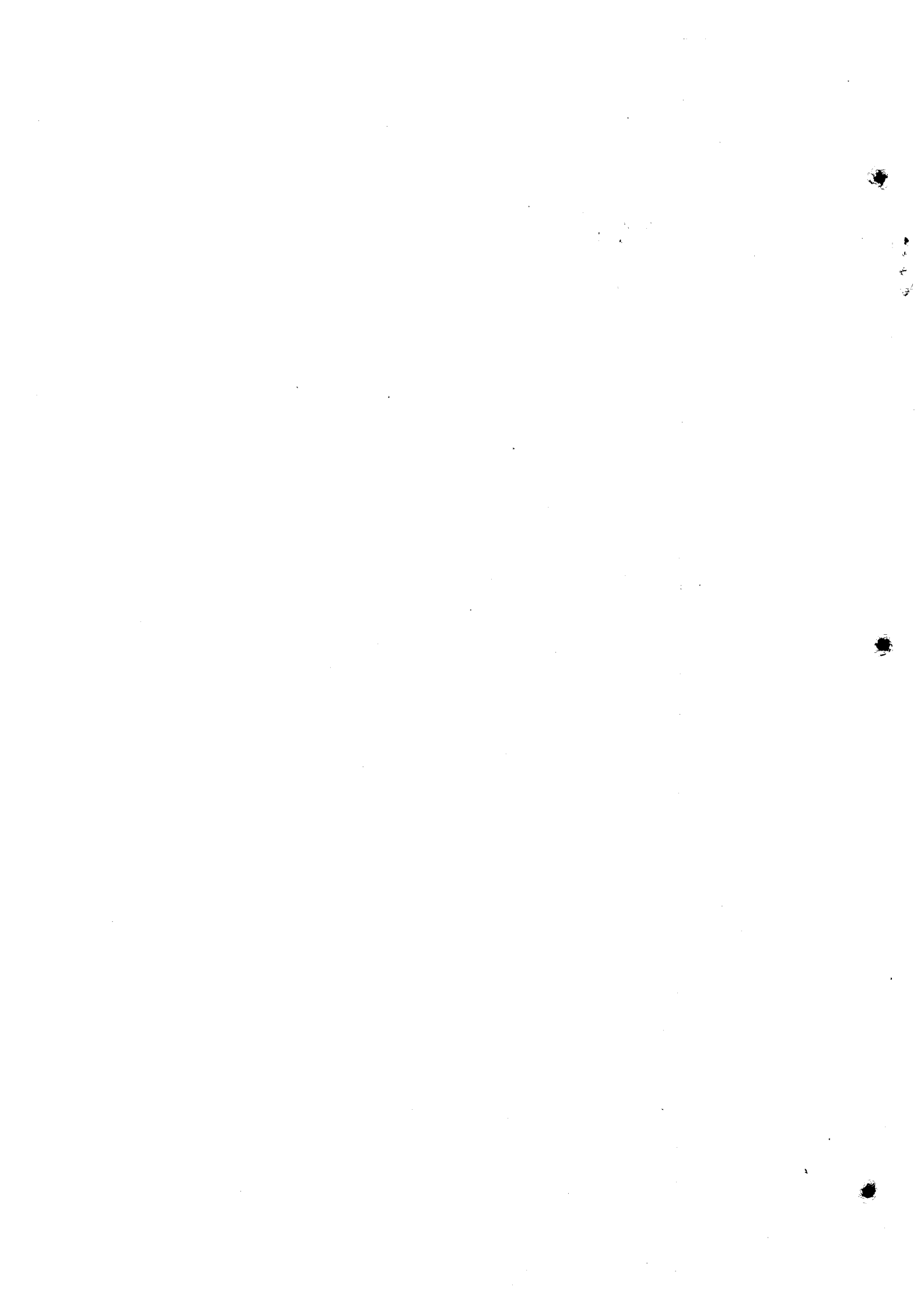
Brussels, 3 December 1979

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1696/71 and 2253/77
as regards the prohibition on the increase in areas
planted with hops

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(79) 716 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. It is laid down in Article 2 of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 541/70¹ of 20 March 1970 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg that the provisions of the second subparagraph of Article 1(1) of the Protocol on the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are to remain applicable until full harmonization of specific duties on wine in the Community is achieved.

The second subparagraph of Article 1(1) of the Protocol referred to above days down to Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Netherlands should apply the system provided for in the third paragraph of Article 6 of the Convention on the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxembourg of 25 July 1921.

The second paragraph of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) n° 541/70 lays down that if such harmonization is not achieved, and in any event not later than 31 December 1973, the Council shall, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, decide to what extent these provisions must be retained amended or abolished.

Article 1 of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 3535/73² of 17 December 1973 extends this period until 31.12.1974.

Article 1 of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 3192/74³ of 17 December 1974 extends this period until 31 December 1975.

Council Regulation (EEC) N° 3310/75⁴ of 16 December 1975 extends this period as long as the excise duties charged in the Benelux countries on products falling within sub-headings Nos 22.05 CI or II of the Common Customs Tariff do not exceed the level in force on 1 January 1975, but in any event not later than 31 December 1976.

¹OJ N° L 68, 25.3.1970 p. 3

²OJ N° L 361, 29.12.1973 p. 1

³OJ N° L 341, 20.12.1974 p. 6

⁴OJ N° L 328, 20.12.1975 p. 16

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

amending Regulation (EEC) Nos 1696/71 and 2253/77
as regards the prohibition on the increase in areas
planted with hops

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1696/71 of 26 July 1971 on the
common organization of the market in hops (1), as last amended by Regula-
tion (EEC) No 235/79 (2), and in particular Articles 9(4) and 10(1)
thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 1696/71 prohibits any increase in
the areas planted with hops during the period 1 July 1977 to 31 December
1979;

Whereas the results of the 1979 crop and the present level of stocks rule
out any return to a balanced market by 31 December 1979; whereas it there-
fore appears advisable to postpone for one crop the prohibition on any
increase in areas planted with hops in order to enable this measure to
achieve its objective of rationalizing the market;

./.

(1) OJ No L 175, 4.8.1971, p. 1
(2) OJ No L 34, 9.2.1979, p. 4

2. With regard to specific duties, the Commission proposed to the Council a directive¹ on the harmonization of the excise duties on wine. The Council has not yet taken a decision on this matter, however.

3. In 1970, The Council adopted Regulation (EEC) N° 816/70² laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine, including a system of intervention for table wines. However, the maintenance of the more favourable system on the Benelux market for wine originating in Luxembourg will continue over the next few years to be of benefit to the agricultural income of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in the sector concerned.
This system has not created any appreciable barrier to the free movement of wines of other origins in the Benelux countries. On the contrary, the absorption capacity of those markets is constantly on the increase.

4. Belgium and the Netherlands having put into effect, in 1976, a special excise duty on wine concerned, it is proposed that the exceptional system provided in the second sub-paragraph of Article 1 (1) of the protocol should be extended until 31 December 1980, while maintaining above mentioned provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 3310/75 of 16 December 1975.

¹ OJ N° C 43, 27.04.1972

² OJ N° L 99, 5.05.1970

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In Article 9(1) of Regulation 1696/71 the expression "31 December 1979" is replaced by "30 September 1980".

Article 2

Regulation (EEC) No 2253/77 is amended as follows:

1. In the first paragraph of Article 1 the date "31 December 1979" is replaced by "30 September 1980".
2. Article 4 is amended to read as follows:

"Article 4

Until 30 September 1980 a recognized producer group may not plant hops on an area greater than that resulting from the carrying out of its plant for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of hop gardens."

Article 3

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

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

Done at

For the Council