

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr KYRKOS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the organization of the market for grapes and
dried figs

PE 85.690

The European Parliament,

whereas,

- A. the Commission of the EEC intends organizing the market for grapes and dried figs within the framework of the regulations on processed fruit and vegetables,
- B. the Community of Ten has to import 70% of its requirements as regards both these products,
- C. these two Greek products enjoyed state protection before Greek accession to the Community,
- D. grapes and dried figs are the only source of income for 65,000 agricultural families and a supplementary source of income for thousands of other workers,
- E. thousands of workers are employed in processing these products in the areas of production,

Recognizes,

1. that the Commission has failed so far to propose specific measures for improving the conditions of production designed to bring about a long-term fall in the cost of production to make these products competitive on international markets,
2. that although the Community intervention agencies bought up these products during the 1981 and 1982 seasons, these measures were not followed up - as they should have been - by immediate steps for the disposal of these products on the Community market and as a result these products had to be distilled,
3. that since grapes were not promoted on the Community markets which constitute the traditional market for Greek grapes consumers lost interest in this product,
4. that distillation deprived thousands of workers in the processing industries of their incomes,

takes a generally positive view of the Commission proposals on grapes and dried figs, points out, however, that especially as regards grapes:

- (a) the production ceiling of 80,000 tonnes is ill-conceived since there is a severe shortage of grapes in the Community so that 70% of its requirements are met by imports and this production ceiling is attained only when weather conditions are exceptionally favourable,
- (b) the mechanism for imposing compensatory levies when Community prices are higher than world prices does not function effectively and so by the time a difference in prices has been noticed substantial quantities of grapes have been imported onto the European market and Community produce remains unsold,
- (c) the registration of prices of imported products fails to protect Community interests since often prices of these products are not always representative,
- (d) the method used for calculating the price of dried grapes in relation to fresh grapes is obscure, and prices should be solely determined on the basis of the latter,
- (e) the method for calculating aid for processing is also obscure,
- (f) the Commission proposal for the elimination of intervention mechanisms for Community stocks is ill-conceived since the Commission is certain that the measures it proposes ensure the even supply of grapes to the Community market,

Calls on the Commission to change its proposals so as to:

1. remove the ceiling of guaranteed production since over the years the quantity produced has been declining and now is falling abruptly,
2. protect the Community market from circumvention of the regulations
3. grant a marketing premium for grapes on the Community market owing to high transport costs from the periphery in the south to the consumer centres in the north,
4. propose measures for improving conditions of production with a view to reducing costs,
5. continue the practice of Community intervention and stocking,

6. set up a joint (EEC-Greece) management body for the disposal of grapes so as to benefit from the 40 years experience of Greece in the disposal of these products.

Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission the Council of Ministers of Agriculture and the Governments of the Member States of the Community.

