

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BARBAGLI, Mr COLLESELLI,
Mr DIANA, Mr LIGIOS, Mr COSTANZO,
Mr GIUMMARRA, Mr BERSANI and Mr DALSSASS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the revision of Regulation 355/77 on
common measures to improve the conditions
under which agricultural products are
processed and marketed

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- having regard to the objectives of Article 39(1)(a) of the Treaty of Rome namely to increase agricultural productivity by promoting technical progress and by ensuring the rational development of agricultural production and the optimum utilization of the factors of production,

- WHEREAS:

- (a) the Commission has already undertaken pursuant to the Mandate of 30 May to devote greater emphasis to the possibilities for improvement in the quality of agricultural products and to the creation of a more modern system for processing and marketing such products to improve their distribution on Community and world markets;
- (b) the need, which has become increasingly apparent in recent years, for greater recourse to an agricultural structures policy and thus for adequate funds to increase the outlets for agricultural production through the rationalization of processing and marketing as well as improvement in the quality and presentation of such products, will be to the clear advantage of both agricultural producers and consumers;
- (c) the accession of Spain is likely to increase the imbalance between the financial appropriations of the Guidance Section of the EAGGF and the requests for Community aid, taking into account the fact that the current total of schemes submitted is twice as high as the resources available;
- (d) the lines of action for the Mediterranean regions proposed by the Commission in the Mandate of 30 May recognize the need for a balanced development of the Community through vigorous action enabling these least developed regions to minimize the extent to which they are lagging behind other regions of the Community;
- (e) Regulation 355/77 expires at the end of 1982 and should therefore be renewed at the beginning of 1983; it is essential for an increase to be made at that time in the funds allocated together with a review of intervention measures;
- (f) only the coherent and balanced coordination of marketing and production structures and the regular adjustment of resources made available can guarantee satisfactory long-term results for a global policy on agricultural structures;
- (g) the distribution of grants already made available has encountered the greatest delay in Italy and Ireland, due to slowness in starting and carrying out projects, administrative delays and particularly to the difficulties facing the beneficiaries in

these States in obtaining the credits necessary to finance their share of the projects and paying high interest rates, with the result that almost all the projects approved in 1978 have yet to be completed;

- (h) apart from the problems of implementing their projects, the farmers in some Member States are in serious financial difficulties due to the wide disparities between rates of inflation, interest rates and the different credit policies applied in the Member States of the EEC;

1. CONSIDERS THAT:

- (a) it is imperative that Regulation 355/77 be extended at the end of 1982 in order to have a more decisive impact in developing and improving the conditions for processing and marketing agricultural products,
- (b) the funds allocated in 1977, having proved totally inadequate for the purposes of an effective market policy, must be proportionately increased to meet current demands,
- (c) in order to ensure a suitable level of bargaining power for farmers together with a fair share of the added value accruing from marketing and processing operations, the beneficiaries of grant aid, as laid down in Regulation 355/77, should be primarily individual farmers or groups thereof; only in the absence of initiatives from these categories will aid to joint undertakings be considered, on condition that in such undertakings the agricultural partner is not in the minority,
- (d) in certain disadvantaged areas the subsidies provided for in Regulation 355/77 should wherever possible be included in integrated programmes for regional development or in more organic programmes for specific sectors,

- 2. Stresses the need for simpler administrative processing of the projects proposed within the scope of Regulation 355/77 at both national and Community level in order to overcome the current distortions which are becoming increasingly serious in those Member States with high levels of inflation and high interest rates.

Further considers that:

- (a) Regulation 1361/78 which increases aid granted by the Fund to a maximum of 50% and of 35% respectively for projects carried out in the Mezzogiorno and in Languedoc-Rousillon, should be extended and expanded to include the other disadvantaged areas of the Community,

- (b) the price adjustment laid down in Regulation 355/77 should be raised from its present inadequate 5% to the level of the average Community rate of inflation so as to compensate for different rates of inflation in the Member States,
 - (c) interest rebates should be granted on the section of the investment project for which the beneficiary is responsible through contributions supplementary to those already made by way of capital grants, the aim being to align national interest rates on the Community average,
 - (d) the availability of loans needed for investment should be guaranteed to the beneficiary through national and regional legislation harmonized at Community level,
 - (e) once a project has been approved, the EAGGF should authorize advance payments for work to be carried out, as already laid down in Regulation 1760/78 on the improvement of the infrastructure in certain rural areas, which provides for the allocation of advance payments equivalent to a maximum of 80% of the Community contribution,
 - (f) intervention by the Fund should be extended to include other products such as wool, leather, wood and silk.
3. Considers it essential, moreover, that in order to realize the full potential of Community exports, a suitable marketing policy be devised for both agricultural products and the agri-foodstuffs industry, to which end Regulation 355/77 should provide for measures to finance the creation and improvement of an information network which would clearly indicate the needs of foreign markets and communicate the information in good time, and for setting up ad hoc courses to train specialized personnel.