

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

on

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BODY OF SPECIFIC OFFICIALS OF THE COMMISSION
FOR CONTROLS IN THE WINE SECTOR

1 May 1991 to 30 April 1992

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1. INTRODUCTION

In a resolution of 19 June 1987, the European Parliament invited the Council to adopt as quickly as possible the Commission's proposal on the establishment in each wine-producing Member State of a department with specific responsibility for preventing fraud in the wine sector and the creation of a small group of officials, specialists in the winegrowing field, having the necessary means and powers, responsible for ensuring at Commission level that Community rules are applied uniformly throughout the Community.

2. COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2048/89

- 2.1. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2048/92¹ requires the Commission to improve the rules on control procedures and to strengthen direct collaboration between the authorities responsible for controls in the Member States. The main objective is to ensure the uniform application of Community rules. The Regulation introduces two principal measures to achieve this. The first is the appointment of specific Commission officials to collaborate with the competent national control authorities, in accordance with Parliament's resolution and Article 79(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87. The body of specific officials was therefore created and the first official was recruited on 1 May 1991. By 1 November 1991, eight officials had taken up their duties. In addition, the Regulation requires Member States to appoint a single liaison authority so as to improve liaison procedures. A list of the control and liaison authorities can be found in Annex I to this report.
- 2.2. Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89 also lays down rules to improve controls. The central principle is the appointment of inspectors with the qualifications and experience required to be able to carry out controls effectively. The Regulation defines the powers of the national and Community control officials and specifies that their intervention takes the form of assistance on request or spontaneous assistance. It also lays down detailed rules concerning the collection of samples, to be carried out by the officials of the Member States. Samples may be made available to the Commission officials, who will then determine which laboratory they are to be sent to for analysis.

1 OJ No L 202, 14.7.1989, p. 32.

In this context, the control instruments are laid down, in particular the use of methods of analysis based on nuclear magnetic resonance to detect fraudulent enrichment². NMR has been adopted as the Community's official method of analysis³. The Community has also contributed to the purchase of NMR equipment by several Member States.

3. THE BODY OF SPECIFIC OFFICIALS

- 3.1. The body of specific Commission officials responsible for controls in the wine sector has been manned by recruiting auxiliary officials. They were selected on the basis of their knowledge of languages and their experience in the winegrowing sector. However, because they are auxiliary officials, the Commission may not employ them for longer than a year. This is a major drawback if any continuity is to be achieved in the controls. No sooner are the officials fully operational than they have to leave the Commission's employ.

Officials with such a level of expertise should be allowed to carry out their functions over a much longer period. This would also give such inspectors a greater degree of motivation, as well as being more advantageous to the Commission from a financial point of view. Unless a solution is found whereby officials can be recruited for longer periods, the Commission will have to disband this body of Community officials.

- 3.2. During its first year of operation, the body of specific officials carried out many inspection visits to the Member States. Annex II to this report shows the areas of control provided for in Article 3(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89 and listed in the Annex to that Regulation. A table of the inspection visits carried out by the specific officials between 1 June 1991 and 30 May 1992 can be found in Annex III.

The main objectives of the body are:

- to collaborate with the competent authorities of the Member States in on-the-spot checks in order to ensure the uniform application of the rules in the wine sector⁴;
- to communicate to the Member States the results of its activities and, where applicable, to report any difficulties encountered or infringements noted of the provisions in force;

2 Article 16 of Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89.

3 Point 8 of the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 2676/90 (OJ No L 272, 3.10.1990).

4 Article 4(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89.

- to establish and maintain a permanent flow of relevant information between the Member States and between them and the Commission;
- to detect loopholes or shortcomings in the Community rules and to suggest ways of improving these.

The first series of visits involved meetings with the control and liaison authorities⁵ for wine in the twelve Member States, in order to learn about their operations and powers.

3.3. From September 1991, during the harvest, the officials initially focused their checks on three areas:

- verification of the minimum sugar content of the grapes harvested;
- control of enrichment operations;
- the destination of excess yields of quality wines psr.

Checks were carried out in all producer countries (except Luxembourg).

During the last quarter of 1991, the specific officials made inspection visits to check registers and documents, investigating:

- the drawing up of approved accounting documents⁶;
- the keeping of registers⁷.

During the first quarter of 1992, inspections of grubbing-up operations eligible for premiums were conducted in the producer countries, except Portugal and Germany.

Visits were also made following the discovery of fraudulent practices, particular regarding the adulteration of wine.

The activities of the officials also included visits made in response to numerous complaints by other Member States or by individual consumers.

5 The authorities provided for and defined in Articles 2 and 4(1) and (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89.

6 Articles 1 to 12 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 986/89 (OJ No L 106, 18.4.1989, p. 1).

7 Articles 13 to 20 of Regulation (EEC) No 986/89.

4. OBSERVATIONS

4.1. Control and liaison authorities

4.1.1. All the Member States have designated a liaison authority except Italy, which has had an infringement procedure initiated against it although this has not solved the problem.

4.1.2. Four producer countries have officials specializing exclusively in wine controls:

- France: an inspection team for wines and spirits ("Mission d'enquêtes des vins et spiritueux"), with 42 officials;
- Italy: a "Nucleo" for the prevention of fraud in the wine sector (16 officials);
- Germany: "Weinkontrolleure" (about 70 officials) spread over the 17 Länder;
- Luxembourg: a "Contrôleur des Vins".

In these countries, officials from other authorities (tax, health, customs, etc.) also carry out inspections, but only sporadically.

Spain, Greece and Portugal have no inspectors specializing exclusively in wine: their officials engage in activities in a variety of fields.

The United Kingdom has a specialized body, the Wine Standard Board (with ten officials). This body is a private association, partly financed by the professional organizations. In Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland and Denmark, the food inspection authorities carry out occasional checks.

The specialized officials in the producer countries are highly motivated but complain that their resources in terms of staff, money and equipment are inadequate to fulfil the tasks they are required to carry out.

Although the officials in the other Member States have not reported inadequacies in the checks, the Commission's specific inspectors have nevertheless noted certain shortcomings, such as inadequate monitoring of labelling in Belgium and the Netherlands.

4.1.3. The visits to the Member States to meet the control and liaison authorities resulted in the following findings:

The authorities responsible for controls in the wine sector are often numerous and their powers overlap. The expertise and experience of inspection officials is sometimes not sufficiently appropriate to ensure adequate controls⁸.

4.2. Control of harvest operations

4.2.1. Minimum potential alcoholic strength determines the uses to which wine can be put: wines suitable for producing table wine, table wines, quality wines produced in specified regions (quality wines psr). It is important that inspections during harvesting concentrate on determining sugar content. Harvested grapes are generally inspected at wine cooperatives and on the premises of merchants who buy grapes. Inspections take the form of sampling by the inspection services. However, far fewer checks are carried out on harvesters who make their own wine.

In Germany, winegrowers are obliged to record the crop as it is harvested in a harvest register, indicating potential alcoholic strength.

Conversely, in France, independent winegrowers/harvesters do not record quantities or alcoholic strengths until they draw up their harvest declaration (deadline: 25 November).

4.2.2. Enrichment is controlled in very different ways in the different Member States.

In Italy, enrichment is carried out only with concentrated rectified must. This practice is widespread and registers are kept in accordance with Community rules. As a result, no irregularities were discovered during the 1991 harvest.

In the German Länder visited (Rhineland-Palatinate, Baden-Württemberg and in Bavaria: the Franconian regions), no prior notification is made⁹ and a period of up to 30 days is officially permitted before operations are recorded in the winery register.

8 Obligations provided for in Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89.

9 Obligation provided for in Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 2240/89 (OJ No L 215, 26.7.1989, p. 16).

In France, on the other hand, enrichment operations are notified in advance to the tax authorities and entered in the enrichment register before the operations are begun. The control authorities (fraud prevention and tax authorities) scrutinize these practices⁹ and focus their checks during the harvesting period primarily on this area.

In Spain, Portugal and Greece, little or no enrichment takes place. Inspections are therefore fewer.

The results of analysis using the NMR method will shortly show whether these verifications are sufficient.

4.2.3. Yields and the use to which overruns are put are also checked.

In Germany, average yields are high (in Rhineland-Palatinate, 140.8 hl/ha in 1989 and 102.3 hl/ha in 1991). In addition, excess yields may be used in the production of sparkling wines or kept to make up lower yields in the following year. Maximum yields have been fixed¹⁰ at high levels of between 90 and 130 hl/ha depending on the winegrowing region. Moreover, the areas included for the purpose of calculating yields can include fallow land, areas which have been delimited but not planted and young vines, from the second year after planting. Such practices undermine the purpose of restricting yields, which is to promote quality¹¹.

The competent German authority replied to these criticisms by specifying that using surplus yields in the production of sparkling wines was a transitional measure which would end in 1994. Carrying over quantities harvested in excess of the maximum yield from one year to the next was justified by the very variable weather conditions in Germany and because high yields had little impact on the quality of wines, as proven by the average figures for nine years.

It should be noted that these averages do not bring out the extreme figures (very high yield of more than 200 hl/ha and very low natural alcoholic strengths of 5-6% vol.).

10 Among the enrichment operations, addition of sugar is taxed in France with an excise duty of FF 80 per 100 kg of sugar.

11 Article 11 and the 15th recital of Council Regulation (EEC) No 823/87 of 16.3.1987 (OJ No L 84, 27.3.1987, p. 59).

The purpose of the Community rules on wine in general and on yields in particular should be examined in order to reach a better definition of the objectives.

Lastly, this calculation basis is considerably different to the stricter traditional definition applied in other producer countries, which include in their yield calculations only vines which have been in production for at least three years.

In Italy, in the case of quality wines psr, production in excess of the maximum yields may be sold as table wine, provided the overrun is not greater than 20% of the maximum yield entitled to a designation of origin. This practice also runs counter to the stated objective. Beyond the 20% tolerance, the entire harvest is downgraded to table wine.

The French arrangements are stricter, since all production in excess of the maximum authorized yield for quality wines psr ("maximum classification ceiling"¹²) must be delivered for distillation or vinegar production.

In the case of Spain, Portugal and Greece, yields have remained low and the maximum yields for quality wines psr have been fixed at fairly high levels to avoid overruns.

Luxembourg had not yet fixed a maximum yield for 1991 (a derogation authorized by the Commission).

4.3. Controls on records and documents

The body of specific officials has carried out investigations concerning the drawing up of approved accounting documents and the keeping of registers as provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 986/89.

One of the main findings was that, in Portugal, approved accounting documents are used in Portugal only for wine intended for dispatch to other Member States, export and distillation. Internal movement of wine is not yet covered by the approved commercial documents required for the transport of wine in the Community.

¹² The maximum classification ceiling is fixed in France by Ministerial Decree and varies according to the designation of origin (e.g. 35 hl/ha for Châteuneuf du Pape and 96 hl/ha for Alsace).

Registers are often kept inadequately or not at all (the case of certain operators in the United Kingdom and Ireland).

On the whole the keeping of registers seems satisfactory, particularly in the producer countries. However, to determine the accuracy of such registers it would be necessary to undertake detailed checks consisting, firstly, in inventorizing the quantities of wine kept in cellars, then in checking these figures against the stock records to detect any sales in excess of purchases. The Commission's specific officials have been present at such checks only in France. It will be necessary in the near future to carry out this type of check (which sometimes requires the presence of inspectors for several days at a single undertaking) in all Member States rather than being satisfied with a superficial glance at the accounts.

4.4. Grubbing-up operations eligible for premiums

The body of specific officials visited all the producer countries except Portugal and Germany.

The checks carried out in Greece and Italy with regard to grubbing-up eligible for premiums revealed the following:

- inspection difficulties in Greece due to the lack of cadastral plans and a vineyard register;
- serious irregularities in Italy, where a comparison of dossiers on applications for grubbing-up premiums with the vineyard register showed nonexistent vines or substantial discrepancies in areas accepted as eligible for grubbing-up in relation to existing areas, overestimation of the amounts of the premium due to the acceptance of yields per hectare greater than the yields shown in the harvest declarations and the grant of permanent abandonment premiums while other vineyards still exist on the holding and have not been grubbed. Detailed examination of a representative sample of dossiers from one Italian province show that about 20-25% of the total amount of premiums were wrongly paid. This exercise clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of the vineyard register as a control instrument.

4.5. Fraudulent practices

4.5.1. The specific officials undertook three major actions in this field, concerning:

- the discovery in France and Germany of watered-down wine originating in Italy;
- the presence of methyl isothiocyanate in Italian wines sold in Italy and elsewhere;

- the controversy between the German and Italian authorities caused by the German authorities' rejection of watered-down wine and concentrated must containing Italian sugar has been exacerbated by the lack of a liaison authority in Italy.

4.5.2. In July 1991 France informed the Commission that several consignments of wine from Italy were suspected of having been diluted with up to 50% water. This discovery was made in France using a new method based on isotopic mass spectrometry whereby the origin of the water can be established. The weight of oxygen 16 relative to its isotope oxygen 18 is not the same in tap water and natural grape water. The Community's specific officials sampled the suspect wines in France and sent the samples to a laboratory in another country, Germany, to verify the repeatability, reproducibility and accuracy of this new control method. The quantified results have been confirmed. However, the German laboratories have requested that a larger data bank be set up on isotopic ratios of oxygen.

Some of the wine called into question by the French authorities has been sent back to Italy to be destroyed by distillation. The Italian wines considered in Germany to be diluted have been denatured and rejected.

4.5.3. In January 1992, Italy revealed that certain Italian operators had marketed wines fraudulently stabilized using methyl isothiocyanate (an antimicrobial agent prohibited in wine). Initially, the Italian authorities tried to play down the scale of the fraud and one authority even claimed that the matter was "sub judice" when Community officials tried to investigate.

Subsequently, however, the Italian authorities communicated the list of consignees of the wine suspected of being fraudulent and sent to other Community and non-member countries. They then took the draconian measure of requiring all consignments of table wine leaving Italy to undergo an official laboratory analysis prior to dispatch.

4.6. Irregular presentation of wines

4.6.1. In Belgium, where the control authorities have to date shown little interest in the work of inspectors responsible for the presentation of wine, it has been necessary to intervene repeatedly, in particular to put a stop to labelling causing confusion with regard to the actual place of bottling.

Although the competent Belgian authority has acknowledged the complaints, it has not initiated any legal proceedings. It has merely warned those responsible for the infringements and given them generous deadlines within which to dispose of the incorrectly labelled stock.

It has also been noted that the use of a code to indicate the bottler gives rise to abuses by giving the consumer no information regarding the actual place of bottling. Thus, in Belgium the producer of the wine in the production region is clearly shown, followed by the bottler's code so that the consumer has no idea that the wine was bottled in Belgium and is led to believe that it was bottled in the producer Member State. This is done by placing the compulsory indication of the country of production, such as FRANCE or ITALY, immediately above or next to the code (B. followed by a number).

- 4.6.2. In the Netherlands, several cases of irregularities in presentation have also been found. In that country also, the control authorities appear to give little importance to the confusion which can arise from the presentation (labelling and advertising) of wine.
- 4.6.3. In the United Kingdom, the name "Sherry" was found to have been wrongly used in one case where a small quantity of authentic sherry was mixed with "British sherry".

Although the British authorities initially argued with the control officials, holding that Community inspectors had no authority where "British wines" and "British sheries" are concerned, they finally assisted the investigation greatly, particularly in discovering the real origin of the wine and in locating the accompanying documents.

4.7. Cases of "Article 36 wines"

A German control authority reported a case of misuse of 30 hl of wine under Article 36 of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87. The wine in question was from Charentes (France), the only permitted uses for which were distillation or export to non-member countries. The facts were communicated to France, which did not reply until seven months later (sic), when it informed the Commission that the wine had been made into sparkling wine, without specifying what steps it was planning to take to penalize the operator's failure to comply with the Community rules. France has again been asked for an explanation.

4.8. General comments

Wine is a product which is very much in the public eye, and although wine controls exist in all Member States, they are clearly insufficient, particularly in the producer countries but also, to a lesser extent, in consumer countries. There are too many competent authorities in the producer countries. It would be a good idea to group together and coordinate the qualified and experienced officials in order to increase the effectiveness of controls. In any case, there are not enough properly qualified inspectors.

5. SUGGESTIONS ON IMPROVING CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

5.1. Sampling and analysis at Community level

While Community officials are not authorized to take samples in the Member States, they may nevertheless require national officials to do so. The samples are then placed at the disposal of the Commission's specific official, who may decide which laboratory they will be sent to for examination.

The Commission has set up a laboratory for the analysis of wine at the Joint Research Centre at Ispra (Italy).

The many disputes between laboratories in the Member States, particularly between Germany and Italy and France and Italy, show the need for an independent pilot laboratory which would initially act as an arbitration laboratory equipped with the facilities necessary for that purpose. The Commission has begun exploring solutions to this problem.

5.2. Removal of obstruction

The cooperation of the Member States with the Commission to increase the flexibility of controls has in the main been satisfactory. Activities in the field with national officials have always been excellent. The Commission's body of specific officials is convinced that the national officials have always been motivated to work towards a common goal in a very European spirit. However, on the occasions when cooperation has been impeded, obstruction has always been caused by the fact that the upper echelons of the hierarchy have been acting on excessively vague instructions.

Three examples can be cited:

- (a) the French central authorities (DGCCRF) instructed their regional officials not to provide the Community's officials with any documents of potential importance to the judiciary and not to allow Community officials to be involved in the drafting of official decisions ("Secret de l'Instruction" - 'sub judice' cases).
- (b) Similarly, the competent departments of the Italian Ministry of Health refused, following instructions from their superiors, to allow Community officials to be involved in the investigations on methyl isothiocyanate ("Secret de l'Instruction").
- (c) According to the Greek liaison authority, the departments of the Ministry of Finance refused to provide the Greek control authorities and the Commission officials with information on the irregularities committed by a firm producing wine and concentrated must, on the grounds of confidentiality for tax purposes.

These cases are the subject of a specific investigation by the Commission's Legal Service.

5.3. Controls in the Member States

One of the positive consequences of Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89 has been the increase in direct contacts between certain Member States with a view to resolving differences arising from the actions of the officials of the specific body. For example, France and Italy achieved good results by exchanging samples as provided for in Article 12 of the above-mentioned Regulation. This measure made it possible to provide additional proof and confirmation in a case concerning dilution of wine. However, many more coordinated measures are needed to achieve better cooperation, particularly in the case of laboratories, which communicate very little among themselves.

5.4. Use of wines which infringe the rules

Another subject of dispute which has not yet been settled is the fate of wine which does not comply with Community and national rules and the marketing of which is prohibited by the competent authorities of a Member State other than the Member State of origin.

In the run-up to the completion of the internal market, it is necessary to spell out clearly the destination of wine products which the competent authorities of a Member State find do not comply with national or Community rules. Existing legal texts could usefully be supplemented with provisions enabling the competent authorities of the Member States to decide, depending on the seriousness of the infringement, that:

- a product should be denatured, or even destroyed, in the case of serious infringements which might pose a threat to public health,
- a product should be declared unsuitable for direct human consumption and used only for industrial purposes,
- a quality wine psr should be downgraded into table wine or wine intended for industrial use only,
- a product may be marketed for direct human consumption, subject to certain conditions.

6. CONCLUSIONS

After a year of operation, thus far there has been little response from the Member States to the conclusions of the reports and the requests for explanations sent to them following the various inspection visits. What replies there have been have also arrived very late (more than six months' delay).

However, although the work got off to a difficult start, the results are starting to make themselves felt. Closer collaboration between the authorities responsible for controls in the wine sector is beginning to be implemented. In addition, certain weaknesses in the Community control arrangements have already been identified and solutions are being sought. The results of the first year of operation of the body of officials must therefore be seen as positive and it must continue to develop in the future, provided that the administrative problems concerning the status of the officials are settled.

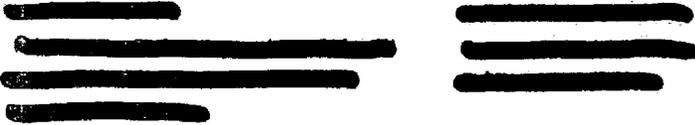
The following steps would be in the general interest, particularly in view of the completion of the internal market:

- the action of the specific body for controls in the wine sector should be reinforced;
- direct collaboration between the Member States concerning the fight against fraud in the wine sector should be strengthened;
- the methods used and the terms on which the inspections are carried out by the different authorities, both Community and national, should be perfected;

- the legal powers of certain Member States vis-à-vis the Community authorities should be clarified;
- the measures undertaken to ensure the uniform application by Member States of the wine rules as provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 2048/89 should be continued.

ANNEX I

COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES



AUTHORITIES

Regulation (EEC) No 2048/71

	B Belgium	DK Denmark	D Germany	EL Greece	E Spain	F France
I. Liaison authority	<p>Ministère de l'agriculture Administration des services économiques Service produits de cultures Manhattan Center Office Tower Avenue du Boulevard 21 - 9^e étage B-1210 Bruxelles</p> <p>Ministerie van Landbouw Bestuur der Economische Diensten Dienst Teeltprodukten Manhattan Center Office Tower Bolwerklaan 21 - 9^e verd. B-1210 Brussel</p>	<p>Landbrugministeriet Departmentet, 2. afdeling Sloetsholmsgade 10 DK-1216 Kobenhavn K</p>	<p>Bundeminister für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten Referat 424 Postfach 14 02 70 D-5300 Bonn 1</p> <p>Tel. : 229/529.3776</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture Directorate for process- ing, standardization and quality control, Wine and spirits section Aharon, 2 GR-10176 Athens</p> <p>Tel. : 529.12.58, 13.05</p>	<p>Dirección General de Po- lítica Alimentaria Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación Paseo Infantà Isabel, n°1 E-28014 Madrid</p> <p>Tel. : 347.53.93, 347.53.94</p>	<p>Commission interministé- rielle de coordination des contrôles sur les bé- néficiaires ou redevables de la section Garantie du FEOGA 2, rue Saint-Charles F-75740 Paris Cedex 15</p> <p>Tel. : (1) 40.58.71.21</p>

	Tel. : (2)211.72.11 Fax : (2)211.72.16 Telex : AGRILA 23655	Tel. : 33.92.33.01 Fax : 33.14.50.42 Telex : 27157 Minag dk	Fax : 228/529.4262 Telex : Teletext:	Fax : 524.35.21. 524.77.08 Telex : 22.17.34.21.61.86 22.17.37	Fax : 347.57.05	Fax : (1) 40.59.04.60 Telex : 204619
II. Control authorities Number of authorities	3	1	17 1 per Land	4 Ministry of Agriculture 1° DPSQC Wine section 2° DPAPA Horticulture Division : Winegrowing 3° IDAGEP Division : Winegrowing Ministry of Finance 4° State General	2 national authorities Sub-Directorate-General (Prevention of fraud) National Service for Agricultural products (SEMPA) 17 regional authorities Agricultural departments of the Autonomous Communities	3 Ministry of Finance and Economy 1° DGCCR Fraud 2° DG Tax 3° DGDDI Customs
Number of officials specializing in wine	none	none	60 Weinkontrollleur	approx. 50	approx. 50 for the national authority	DGCCRF 42 Tax 200

AUTHORITIES

Regulation (EEC) No 2049/71

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	IR Ireland	IT Italy	L Luxembourg	NL Netherlands	P Portugal	UK United Kingdom
I. Liaison authority	Department of Agriculture and food Food Division Agriculture House Kildare Street IRL-Dublin 2 Tel. : 749031, ext 2303/2202 Fax : 416263 Telex : 93603	NONE The Commission has not yet received details of the liaison and control authorities in Italy	Institut vitivinicole BP 50 L-5501 Berich Tel. : 693.22. 691.60 Fax : 49.95.50	Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij Directie Internationale Agrarische Aangelegenheden en Markterdeningsproductien Boete Wijn Postbus 20.401 NL-2500 EK Den Haag NL-2500 EK Den Haag Tel. : 70/379.33.11 Fax : 70/347.70.47	Instituto da Vinha e do Vinho Rua Mouzinho de Silveira, 5 P-1200 Lisboa Tel. : 4/56.33.21 Fax : 1/53.48.20 Telex : 11.500 1WVP	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Alcoholic Drinks Division Branch A (Wines) 3-4 Whitehall Place (West Block) UK-London SW1A 3NH Tel. : 71.270.8595 Fax : 71.270.8615 Telex : 889351 HAFWPLG
II. Control authorities Number of authorities	1	4	1	2	2	1
Number of specialist Wine controllers	none	1 ^o Central Inspectorate for fraud prevention (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) 2 ^o Guardia del Finanze 3 ^o Health NAS(Carabinieri) 4 ^o Customs Fraud 15	1 wine controller	none	approx 40	MSB Wine Standard Board 12

AREAS OF CONTROL PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 3(1)
OF REGULATION (EEC) No 2048/89

1. Harvest, production and stock declarations.
 2. The holding and marketing of wine-sector products which are not packaged including the establishment and use of the documents accompanying their transport, and the keeping of registers.
 3. The destination and use of concentrated grape musts, whether or not rectified, qualifying for aid.
 4. Grubbing, replanting and new planting.
 5. The natural alcoholic strength by volume of grapes used for wine-making.
 6. Verification of the raw inputs used for wine-making.
 7. Oenological practices, including the holding and marketing of products used for the processing of wine-sector products.
 8. The use of wine obtained from grapes of vine varieties classified as other than wine grape varieties.
 9. The enrichment of grapes, musts and wine and the holding and marketing of sucrose, concentrated grape must and rectified concentrated grape must.
 10. The preparation of concentrated grape must and rectified concentrated grape must including the production of the basic material employed.
 11. The holding, marketing, distillation and destruction of the by-products of wine-making.
 12. The distillation and storage of products on which aid is paid.
 13. The verification of the composition of wine products.
 14. The up-dating of the vineyard register.
 15. Description and presentation of wine sector products.
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TABLE OF INSPECTION VISITS
 carried out by the specific body for controls in the wine sector
 between 1 June 1991 and 30 May 1992

COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	PURPOSE OF VISIT
BELGIUM	1. 30 October 1991 2. 4 and 12 November 1991 3. 5-7 May 1992	Initial contact. Introduction to control authorities. Investigation concerning the presentation of "La Mancha" wines bottled in Belgium. Investigation concerning the keeping of registers.
DENMARK	1. 28 August 1991 2. 13-15 January 1992	Initial contact. Introduction to control authorities. Checks on registers and documents.
GERMANY	1. July 1991 2. 25-29 October 1991 3. 25-29 November 1991 4. 18-22 February 1992	Initial contact. Introduction to control authorities. Control of harvest in Rhineland-Palatinate. Control of recording and registers (Bade). Control of registers (Franconia).
GREECE	1. 1 and 2 July 1991 2. 9-13 September 1991 3. 10-13 December 1991 4. 3-6 February 1992 5. 2-5 March 1992 6. 30 March-3 April 1992	Initial contact. Introduction to control authorities. Present at inspections. Concentrated must and grubbing. Verification of registers and enrichment practices. Control of grubbing in Crete. Control of concentrated must (Corith) Control of distillation operations.
SPAIN	1. 8 and 10 July 1991 2. 17-19 September 1991 3. 13-15 November 1991 4. 3-7 February 1992 5. 27-30 April 1992 6. 14-15 May 1992	Initial contact. Introduction to control authorities. Control of harvesting. Study of control methods at Penedes. Present at control of grubbing. Control of distillation operations (La Mancha). Verification of planting and sampling of wine.

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 between 1 June 1991 and 30 May 1992

COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	PURPOSE OF VISIT
FRANCE	1. 10-12 July 1991 2. 29 July - 1 August 1991 3. 30 September - 3 October 1991 4. 3-5 December 1991 5. 9-12 December 1991 6. 3-7 February 1992 7. 24-28 February 1992 8. 18-22 May 1992 9. 19 May 1992	Initial contact with the different control authorities. Control of Italian wines suspected of dilution. Sampling. Control of harvesting operations (Touraine). Present at control of wine merchants (Herauld). Investigation concerning addition of Spanish must. Present at control of grubbing operations. Control of distillation and vinous alcohol. Present at control of registers and documents. Contact with control authorities. Progress report.
IRELAND	1. 1 August 1991 2. 17 January 1992	Initial contact. Introduction to control authorities. Investigation concerning the keeping of registers.
ITALY	1. 3-5 July 1991 2. 16-20 September 1991 3. 12-15 November 1991 4. 18-22 November 1991 5. 21-24 January 1992 6. 27-31 January 1992 7. 25-28 February 1992 8. 23-27 March 1992 9. 8-10 April 1992	Initial contact with fraud authorities (Rome). Control of harvesting operations. Investigations concerning wine suspected of falsification (Padua). Investigations concerning wine suspected of falsification (Bologna). Investigation concerning illegal treatment with methyl isothiocyanate. Control of grubbing and vineyard register. Control of production and use of concentrated must. Control of grubbing in Apulia. Control of grubbing and vineyard register (Rome).
NETHERLANDS	1. 24 July 1991 2. 11-13 March 1992	Initial contact with the control authorities. Present at controls on the keeping of registers.

TABLE OF INSPECTION VISITS
carried out by the specific body for controls in the wine sector
between 1 June 1991 and 30 May 1992

COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	PURPOSE OF VISIT
LUXEMBOURG	1. 26 July 1991 2. 18-20 March 1992	Initial contact. Introduction to the control authorities. Present at controls on the keeping of registers and labelling.
PORTUGAL	1. 16-17 July 1991 2. 23-26 September 1991 3. 10-13 December 1991 4. 11-15 May 1992 5. 30 March - 3 April 1992	Initial contact with the control authorities. Present at controls during harvesting. Control on the keeping of registers and documents. Control of grubbing eligible for premium. Control of distillation operations.
UNITED KINGDOM	1. 20-30 July 1991 2. 14-17 January 1992 3. 17-19 March 1992 4. 19-22 May 1992	Initial contact with the control authorities. Control on the description of wine products and sherry. Control of the keeping of registers and products. Investigation concerning sherry.