

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr ROMUALDI, Mr ALMIRANTE,

Mr BUTTAFUOCO and Mr PETRONIO

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the export of Italian wine products to France

PE 74.835

The European Parliament,

- whereas, following the bumper production of wine in 1979, the wine-growing sector has been hit for the second year running by a serious imbalance between the amount of wine produced and the extent to which the market can absorb it,
 - whereas Community intervention, despite making use of all the measures provided for, has not succeeded in effectively reducing the surpluses nor in guaranteeing producers adequate earnings,
 - furthermore, whereas, despite there being an abundance of wine available,
 - which even has failed to reduce distillation (perhaps because it was carried out in piecemeal fashion at the wrong time) - in certain Community countries the Commission's authorization to add saccharose to the must has been blatantly extended resulting in an artificially created increase in production,
 - whereas this sector is affected by the controversy which has arisen in France where Italian wine exports have been blocked, first by the aggressive actions of the wine growers and, second, by the 'protectionist' measures supported by the French Government which, by seizing upon the pretext of technical and formal inconsistencies, has in fact flouted the rules governing free movement of goods within the Community,
 - whereas the immediate damage caused by this controversy and these measures is extremely serious for Italian producers already hard hit by having to deal with grave difficulties in their country such as, primarily, the struggle against product adulteration, the fall in demand, and the credit squeeze, the last of which is due to the running down of these commercial operations,
 - whereas this situation - in addition to support for and updating of the guidelines already made for the short- and long-term measures aimed at restructuring this sector and eliminating the grave imbalances in it - calls for the urgent adoption of special measures to eradicate the most serious causes of the present crisis;
1. Calls upon the Commission and the Council of Ministers to adopt the following urgent measures:
- (a) exceptional authorization of the permanent distillation of the wine stored since last year so that this year's wine can be stored in the tanks and with the surpluses disposed of, market forces can again regulate trade relations;
 - (b) revocation of authorization to add saccharose to the must, thereby ensuring that lower grade wines are only enriched with 'grape sugar', i.e. with vine-based products;

- (c) implementation of measures to promote a recovery, alongside quality control, of the levels of demand which are at present constantly declining and to establish contacts with third world countries in order to locate and organize new export markets;
 - (d) adoption of measures designed to revoke the safeguard clauses for table grapes and raising of the price for alcohol produced from these grapes to 80% of the guide price for wine;
 - (e) control of the alcohol sector before the market becomes saturated.
2. Instructs its President to forward this motion for a resolution to the Council of Ministers and the Commission of the European Communities.