

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LIGIOS, Mr COLLESELLI, Mr COSTANZO,
Mr BARBAGLI, Mr DIANA, Mr DALSASS, Mr ADONNINO,
Mr ANTONIOZZI, Mr BARBI, Mr BERSANI, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO
CERRETTI, Mr DEL DUCA, Mr FILIPPI, Mrs GAIOTTI DE
BIASE, Mr GHERGO, Mr GIAVAZZI, Mr GIUMMARRA,
Mr GONELLA, Mr LEGA, Mr LIMA, Mr MACARIO, Mr MODIANO,
Mr NARDUCCI, Mr PEDINI, Mr SASSANO, Mr TRAVAGLINI,
Mr ZACCAGNINI and Mr ZECCHINO

with request for topical and urgent debate

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERIES OF MEASURES
ALREADY PROPOSED FOR RESTORING THE BALANCE IN THE
WINE SECTOR

The European Parliament,

- whereas the resolution contained in the Colleselli report on the situation in the Community wine-growing sector¹ was adopted by a large majority on 9 April 1981,
- having regard to the proposals subsequently put forward by the Commission for the gradual restoration of the balance in the wine market²,
- whereas in view of the difficulties confronting the Community wine trade an overall review of the situation in the whole sector is urgently required in order to prevent the European public, which is repeatedly bombarded by the press, radio and television, from falling into the error of believing that the Community wine crisis consists solely of the so-called 'wine war' between the Mezzogiorno and the Midi,
- whereas the principle of free movement is beyond dispute (the ban at the frontier being unacceptable from any point of view) and whereas it is also clear that any lasting restoration of the balance in the sector must be based on the series of measures proposed in the resolution adopted by a large majority of Parliament's Members on 9 April 1981¹,

1. Notes unfortunately that neither the measures proposed by it nor those put forward by the Commission, examined by Parliament and approved by the Council have been implemented to any noticeable extent;
2. Notes however that the main essentials for restoring the balance of the sector (from the point of view of production, taxation and marketing) are still as follows:

Production

- (a) an increase in the minimum qualitative requirements for table wine and compulsory low-price distillation of wine that does not come up to those minimum requirements;
- (b) the possibility of regular and automatic distillation of the remaining wine at a price fixed at the beginning of the wine-growing year;
- (c) a ban on the addition of saccharose to must and consequent enrichment with rectified concentrated musts (grape sugar);

¹ OJ No. C 101, 4.5.1981, p.53

² OJ No. C 209, 2.10.1978 and OJ No. C 323, 30.10.1978.

Taxation

- (d) harmonization of tax arrangements and abolition of the duties that make wine prohibitively expensive in various Member States, thus discriminating between consumers;

Marketing

- (e) measures to promote consumption in the Member States (as has already been done for milk and cheese);
 - (f) extension of the range of third countries for which 'refunds' for table wine can be granted;
3. Is also of the opinion that the following points should also be taken into account:
- (a) the restructuring of vineyards on the basis of their natural suitability for wine-growing;
 - (b) the discrimination between Community wines which still exists in some Member States together with the already unacceptable duties;
 - (c) Spain's wine production and, in particular, its potential, which have to be examined immediately as part of the accession negotiations;
 - (d) re-examination, in the taxation context, of taxation on wine, beer and a whole series of 'nominally' fruit-based beverages that can scarcely be considered as agricultural products;
 - (e) implementation of the 'Alcohol' regulation in order to fix the limits for the use of agricultural and industrial alcohol;
4. Maintains that the European public has the right to know that the current wine surpluses are due in large part to poor quality wines from areas that are ill-suited or unsuited to wine-growing but that give a very high yield, and to the equally acute phenomenon of underconsumption which in turn is due to a series of causes, the most serious but not the only one being the prohibitive taxation on wine to the advantage of other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages;
5. Reaffirms in conclusion that the wine sector is confronted with two problems; firstly, the immediate restoration of the free movement of this agricultural product, and secondly in the medium and long term;

6. Recalls that these two problems are interdependent and that neither the first (the ban at the frontier) nor the second affect Italy and France alone; the various aspects of the wine problem, including imports from third countries, affect the Community as a whole;
7. Calls on the Commission to report to it urgently at a plenary sitting on the extent to which the measures approved by the Council have been implemented;
8. Calls on the Commission and the Council to take specific and speedy action on all the measures for restoring the balance of the wine sector proposed by Parliament in its resolution of 9 April 1981;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission and the Governments of the Member States.