

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

15 January 1982

DOCUMENT 1-938/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COSTANZO, Mr BARBAGLI,
Mr COLLESELLI, Mr DALSASS, Mr DIANA,
Mr GIUMMARRA, Mr LIGIOS, Mr STELLA
and Mr DEL DUCA

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules
of Procedure

on the necessary adjustments to be made
to the rules governing the olive oil
sector

PE 76.903

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 39 of the Treaty,
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council¹ on the olive oil sector with a view to the accession of Spain,
- having regard to the resolution tabled by Mr Ligios and adopted by the European Parliament on the fixing of agricultural prices for the 1981/82 marketing year (OJ No C 90 of 21.4.1981), with reference to the need to establish an overall policy for fats and oils and therefore to establish a better price relationship between olive oil and competing oils,
- having regard to the important socio-economic function of olive oil production, which is largely in the hands of family holdings (there are more than 2 million olive growers in Italy, Greece and France),
- whereas olive growing, apart from protecting the soil, has an ecological and rural conservation function which also involves environmental policy and the re-establishment of regional balance,
- whereas the accession of Spain will alter the present equilibrium, so that the Community may find itself faced with structural surpluses of olive oil unless the necessary measures to encourage and revive consumption are taken promptly,
- whereas this is an age-old crop which does not lend itself to reconversion, since in the areas in question alternative crops would aggravate the existing economic problems, thereby increasing the production imbalance,
- whereas the main reason for the difficulties in marketing olive oil lies in the high price relationship between olive oil and other competing oils, which is now 2.7: 1

BELIEVES THAT :

1. In line with the provisions for the fruit and vegetable and wine sectors, it is necessary, within the context of the proposals to review the Community patrimony, immediately to adjust the Community rules governing the olive oil sector too;
2. Although the system of production aid is not the only mechanism which can directly guarantee producers' earnings, it must be reinforced instead of being weakened in favour of the system of aid to consumption, which must remain a supplementary instrument to improve marketing conditions;

¹ COM (81) 610 final

3. With a view to restoring the balance of the Community oils and fats sector on a lasting basis, the price relationship between olive oil and competing seed oils must be brought down to a ratio of 1.8: 1, thereby encouraging a revival of this production;
4. Furthermore, it is absolutely necessary to take measures to restructure Community olive-growing, with a view to lowering production costs;
5. The olive-growing register must be enforced promptly as an essential instrument not only for controlling production and production aid, but also for preparing the necessary structural measures;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.