

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 180/79

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 133/79) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 154/75 as regards the financing of the register of olive cultivation

Rapporteur: Mr F. HANSEN

121.

By letter of 24 April 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 154/75 as regards the financing of the register of olive cultivation.

On 26 April 1979 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Hansen rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 9 May 1979 and adopted the motion for a resolution by 6 votes in favour with 3 abstentions.

Present: Mr Caillavet, chairman, deputizing for Mr Hansen, rapporteur; Mr Albertini, Mr Baas (deputizing for Mr Cifarelli), Mr Cunningham, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Früh, Mr Howell, Mr Brønlund Nielsen and Mr Tolman

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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A

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 154/75 as regards the financing of the register of olive cultivation

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 133/79),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 180/79),
- whereas the register of olive cultivation is essential for the smooth functioning of the new organization of the market in olive oil and for the proper management of that market,
- whereas the Commission's proposed allocation of the expenditure arising from the compilation of the register seems reasonable,

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No. C 106, 27.4.1979, p. 4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Regulation No. 154/75¹ provided for the establishment of a register of olive cultivation based on an accurate census of the number of olive trees on Community territory. This census is extremely important, since, under the recently introduced new olive oil market organization, production aid is limited to areas planted with olive trees before 31 October 1978 and, for growers who are not members of producer groups, is granted on a flat-rate basis depending on the number, production potential and yield of their olive trees.

It is therefore necessary to establish the exact number of olive trees cultivated by each grower.

2. For this purpose, a survey method using aerial photographs has now been devised and successfully tried; the information obtained from the photographs is recorded on magnetic tapes and then computerized. The end result consists of maps of the photographed area showing only the olive trees and no other vegetation with different characteristics. These maps are then combined with the cadastral plans in order to establish the number of olive trees on each individual plot. This method was considered to be quicker and more efficient than counting with the naked eye, which would have required many years' work; moreover, the possible margin of error - around 4 to 5% - can be reduced by means of suitable checks.

3. Although a scientific method of counting olive trees has thus been devised, thereby removing the most important technical obstacle, there still remains the problem of financing. The census was to have been financed by deducting a percentage from the production aid - 1% for the 73/74 marketing year and 5% for the 74/75 marketing year. These deductions produced around 7 million EUA, whereas the total cost of the operation is estimated at 25/30 million. In the present situation the system of deductions from production aid can no longer be used because the market situation has deteriorated since the two marketing years mentioned above and the growers cannot be asked to make further sacrifices. The Commission therefore proposes that the extra expenditure, calculated at 18 - 25 million EUA, should be borne in the ratio of two-thirds, or 12 - 15.35 m EUA, by the EAGGF and one-third, or 6 - 7.5 m EUA, by the Member States concerned.

¹OJ No. L 19, 24.1.1975

4. The European Parliament has already approved the establishment of a register of olive cultivation¹, reserving the right to comment at a later date on the financing arrangements. The system proposed by the Commission (two-thirds to be paid by the EAGGF and one-third by the two Member States in question) seems reasonable, in view of the importance to those countries of an up-to-date and accurate register.

The Committee on Agriculture is therefore able to deliver a favourable opinion on the proposal and it hopes that the register will be completed as soon as possible.

¹See De Keersmaecker report, Doc. 426/74 of 13 January 1975.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr Henri CAILLAVET,
chairman of the Committee on Agriculture

Luxembourg, 8 May 1979

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Budgets on the proposal for
a Council regulation amending Regulation No. 154/75 as
regards the financing of the register of olive cultivation
(COM (79) 174 final)

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal for
a regulation at its meeting of 7 May 1979.

It noted that by Regulation No. 154/75 the Council, on 21
January 1975, approved a register for olive cultivation. Its
decision was based on the assumption that the overall cost of this
measure would be 7 m EUA and that the amount of aid granted to
producers in the 1973/74 and 1974/75 marketing years could be
maintained. Possible additional expenditure was not, however,
ruled out.

Following the necessary preliminary studies the Commission
has now come to the conclusion that the establishment of a register
would cost between 25 and 30 m EUA.

This represents about one tenth of annual intervention in this
sector of agriculture.

Two thirds of the extra cost are to be financed by the Community
and one third by the Member States. According to the financial
statement this would mean a contribution from the Community budget
from 1981 of some 19 to 22 m EUA.

From the point of view of economic budgetary management the committee notes that the census involved constitutes a decidedly bureaucratic measure entailing considerable financial outlay. However, as the breakdown of expenditure given in the financial statement is extremely precise and as the Committee on Budgets is concerned to let the committee responsible decide on the substance of the matter, it delivers a favourable opinion on the Commission's proposal.

Yours sincerely

Erwin LANGE

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr van Aerssen, Lord Bruce of Donington, Mrs Dahlerup, Mr Dalyell, Mr Dankert, Mr Notenboom, Mr Ripamonti, Mr Schreiber and Mr Shaw.

