

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 183/79

Report

on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 93/79) for a regulation amending Regulation No. 2511/69 laying down/special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit

Rapporteur: Mr G. LIGIOS

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PE 58.296/fin.

By letter of 17 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. 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit.

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.

On 24 April 1979 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr LIGIOS rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 9 May 1979 and adopted the motion for a resolution by 6 votes to 0 with 3 abstentions.

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

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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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. 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit.

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. 93/79),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 183/79),
1. Regrets the delay in the execution of the programmes for converting orchards and improving the marketing and processing structures for citrus fruit;
 2. Realizes, however, that grubbing-up orchards and replanting them with new varieties, quite apart from the delay already suffered, is in itself an operation that will yield positive results and a better return only in the longer term;
 3. Draws attention to the fact that the conversion programme in Southern Italy has effectively been in progress since 1975, where 5,000 hectares have been grubbed up and replanted with new varieties and that, consequently, Community financial support must continue to be given to ensure that the programme proceeds without interruption so as to improve the production and marketing of citrus fruit, objectives which are in the interest of Community producers and consumers alike;
 4. Expects the Commission to continue to promote the conversion measures already initiated by compensating smallholders appropriately, through income subsidies, for losses of income incurred as a result of conversion, and to ensure that the conversion of orchards is completed by the proposed deadline, i.e. 1985;

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹OJ No. C 104, 26.4.1979, p.8

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In Council Regulation No. 2511/69, the special measures laid down for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit¹ aim at eliminating as many as possible of the obstacles to sales encountered in the grapefruit and mandarine sectors. They involve the planting of new varieties such as navel oranges and clementines, for which better sales outlets exist in the Community than for more traditional varieties of citrus fruit because they correspond more closely to consumer requirements. Financial support is provided for mainly in the form of temporary compensation to offset losses incurred by producers as a result of conversion, the latter qualifying for Community financial support in the amount of 1,000 u.a. per hectare for oranges for a period of five years.

The devolution of power to the Italian regions and the relative administrative procedures were the cause of some delay and it was only after Italy passed appropriate financial legislation in 1974 that the conversion programme could be set in train. In the Italian regions of Sicily and Calabria a total area of 42,000 hectares is affected by these measures, and on the French island of Corsica 300 hectares. Conversion activities have been under way in Italy since 1975 and continue to progress steadily: 5,000 hectares have already been grubbed up and replanted with new varieties.

Obviously, operations on this scale cannot be completed in the space of two or three years and it will be at least eight years before the new plantations begin to give a yield of any size. For technical reasons the Commission thus proposes to extend the deadline for orchard conversion by eight years, i.e. until 31.12.1985.

The Committee on Agriculture urges the Commission to ensure that the conversion measures continue to be implemented without any further delay and that the producers in the areas affected by the Community measures are fairly compensated for their loss of income.

The Committee on Agriculture **also** stresses that the Commission is procuring all relevant information on the progress of conversion activities and is exercising effective control thereon. In the realization that the conversion measures cannot be completed any more swiftly than the Commission proposes, the Committee on Agriculture approves the latter's proposal.

¹OJ No. L318 of 18.12.1969

ANNEX

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 from the Commission to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit (Doc. 93/79)

Dear Mr Chairman,

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

As it did not prove possible fully to implement the measures contained in Regulation No. 2511/69 (aids to measures to convert citrus plantations and to adjust infrastructures) within the prescribed time-limit (31 December 1978), the Commission proposes that the period of validity of the regulation be extended by a further seven years.

This proposal entails expenditure of 40 m EUA from public funds in the Member States and 16 m EUA from the general budget of the Community. It should be pointed out, however, that the 6 m EUA required for 1979 could be supplied by the appropriations set aside under Article 853 which have not so far been used (17.7 m EUA, according to the Commission).

In view of the moderate financial implications of this proposal, and on the basis of the evidence at its disposal, the Committee on Budgets feels it can deliver a positive opinion on this matter.

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 Shaw and Mr Schreiber.