

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 208/78

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 207/78) for

- I. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables
- II. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1035/77 laying down special measures to encourage the marketing of products processed from lemons

Rapporteur: Mr M. CIFARELLI

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 proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for:

- a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables,
- a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/77 laying down special measures to encourage the marketing of products processed from lemons.

The President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

On 14 June 1978, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr M. CIFARELLI rapporteur.

It considered these proposals at its meeting of 22/23 June 1978 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Kofoed, chairman; Mr Liogier, Mr Ligios and Mr Hughes, vice-chairmen; Mr Cifarelli, rapporteur; Mr Andersen, Mr Brugger, Mr Delmotte (deputizing for Mr Brégégère), Mr Dewulf, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Fröh, Mr Hansen, Mr Kavanagh (deputizing for Mrs Krouwel-Vlam), Mr L'Estrange, Mr Ney and Mr Pisoni.

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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 proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for:

- I. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables
- II. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/77 laying down special measures to encourage the marketing of products processed from lemons.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(78) 277 final),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 207/78),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 208/78),

Approves the Commission's proposals.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The purpose of the two Commission proposals referred to the Committee on Agriculture is to extend indefinitely the current arrangements for lemons and blood oranges, which are limited to only three marketing years.

The arrangements for lemons provides for a system of aid to encourage the marketing of products processed from Community lemons during the 1977/78, 1977/78, 1978/79 and 1979/80 marketing years. The aid is based on contracts between producers and processors that lay down the minimum price to be paid by the processors to the producers in order to guarantee the latter adequate incomes and the former regular supplies of raw materials. Processors are then granted financial compensation equal to the difference between the minimum price paid to the producers and the cost of the raw materials in third countries. The cost of this compensation is borne by the EAGGF, Guarantee Section. A total of 11 million EUA were earmarked for this system and a similar one for oranges in the 1978 budget.

2. As regards blood oranges, the basic regulation, No 1035/72, on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables provides that during the above three marketing years certain categories of blood oranges of the Sanguigne and Sanguinelle varieties withdrawn from the market by the intervention agencies may be sold to the processing industry at public auctions on the basis of a minimum selling price fixed by the Commission. For the 1977/78 marketing year the price fixed was 32.50 u.a./t, and the withdrawal price was about 150 u.a./t. This arrangement is now being made permanent.

3. The Committee on Agriculture has unanimously approved both proposals which form part of the 'Mediterranean package' and are directed at an area of the Community whose difficulties are notorious and in which the essential requirement is to encourage as much as possible the industries that process local agricultural products in order to use them to the best advantage and create or maintain jobs in depressed rural areas.

4. Both proposals also have the advantage of avoiding the serious inconvenience of having to destroy fruit withdrawn from the market, a practice that is not only generally deprecated but also extremely damaging to the image of the common agricultural policy. At the same time, disturbances on the Community market are avoided by withdrawing the product and the income of producers is effectively supported.

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