

European Communities

446.42

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1977 - 1978

LIBRARY

12 May 1977

DOCUMENT 109/77

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 72/77) for a regulation amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No. 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector

Rapporteur: Mr A. LIOGIER

PE 48.648/fin.

By letter of 22 April 1977 the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for

a regulation amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No. 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector.

The President of the Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 26 April 1977 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Liogier rapporteur.

At its meeting of 11 May 1977 it considered the proposal and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

The following were present: Mr Laban, vice-chairman and acting chairman, Mr Liogier, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr Albertini, Mr Corrie, Mr Guerlin, Mr Frankie Hansen, Mr Hoffman, Mr Hughes, Mrs Kellett-Bowman (deputizing for Mr Scott-Hopkins), Mr Klinker, Mr de Koning, Mr Martens and Mr Mitchell.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6

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 for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No. 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector

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 Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 72/77);
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.109/77);
1. Considers that this proposal must not create a precedent and that the deadlines laid down for the grubbing up of vines or for the submission of applications for the granting of premiums cannot be waived, except in cases of force majeure;
 2. Approves the Commission's proposal in view of the recent unfavourable weather conditions in one of the Member States.

¹ OJ No. C 100, 23.4.1977, p. 4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Under the first indent of Article 3 (2) (b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1163/76¹ on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector, as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2428/76², an applicant for a premium must give an undertaking to the effect that 'by 1 May 1977 in respect of the 1976/77 wine year and by 1 April of the year following that in which an application is lodged in respect of the following wine years, he will grub up or have grubbed up the vines on the areas for which the premium has been requested'.

2. Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 2034/76 provides that, before payment of the premium by the EAGGF, the competent authorities of the Member States must satisfy themselves, by means of on-the-spot checks, that the conditions governing the granting of the premium have been complied with. It also provides that they must determine the amount to be granted within the limits laid down by Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No. 1163/76.

3. As a result of adverse weather conditions in South-West France, which last winter suffered severe floods, the normal verification procedures were delayed in this area, even though applications for premiums for the 1976/77 wine year in respect of 20,000 hectares under vines had been submitted by vine growers by 16 January 1977, the deadline laid down by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3141/76³.

4. To understand the purpose of the present proposal, it is essential to examine the verification procedure carried out in France under the responsibility of ONIVIT ('Office National Interprofessionnel des Vins de Table'). This procedure consists of two stages:

- . Firstly, upon receipt of an application, the Office carries out an on-the-spot survey to determine whether the vines concerned actually qualify for the grubbing-up premium. It draws up a report on the basis of this survey.
- . Secondly, after the vine producers have informed the Office that the vines in respect of which a premium is to be granted have been grubbed up, the Office issues a grubbing-up certificate.

¹ OJ No. L 135, 24.5.76, p.34

² OJ No. L 276, 7.10.76, p.4

³ OJ No. L 354, 24.12.76, p.5

5. The floods referred to in paragraph 3 not only disrupted the normal on-the-spot verification procedure, but also prevented the grubbing up of the vines and, consequently, the issue of the grubbing-up certificates.

6. For these reasons, the Commission proposes that the deadline for the grubbing up of vines should be fixed at a later date, i.e. 15 June 1977 instead of 1 May 1977 (Article 1 of its proposal). In the realization that such a situation could recur, the Commission also provides that the Council, acting by a qualified majority, may waive the time limit laid down for completion of the grubbing up operation.

7. The Committee on Agriculture appreciates that the normal verification procedures in one Member State were held up by exceptional circumstances and considers, therefore, that the Commission's proposal can be approved, provided that it does not create a precedent which could be invoked on other grounds, such as administrative inefficiency on the part of the authorities responsible for carrying out the checks.

