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REPORT

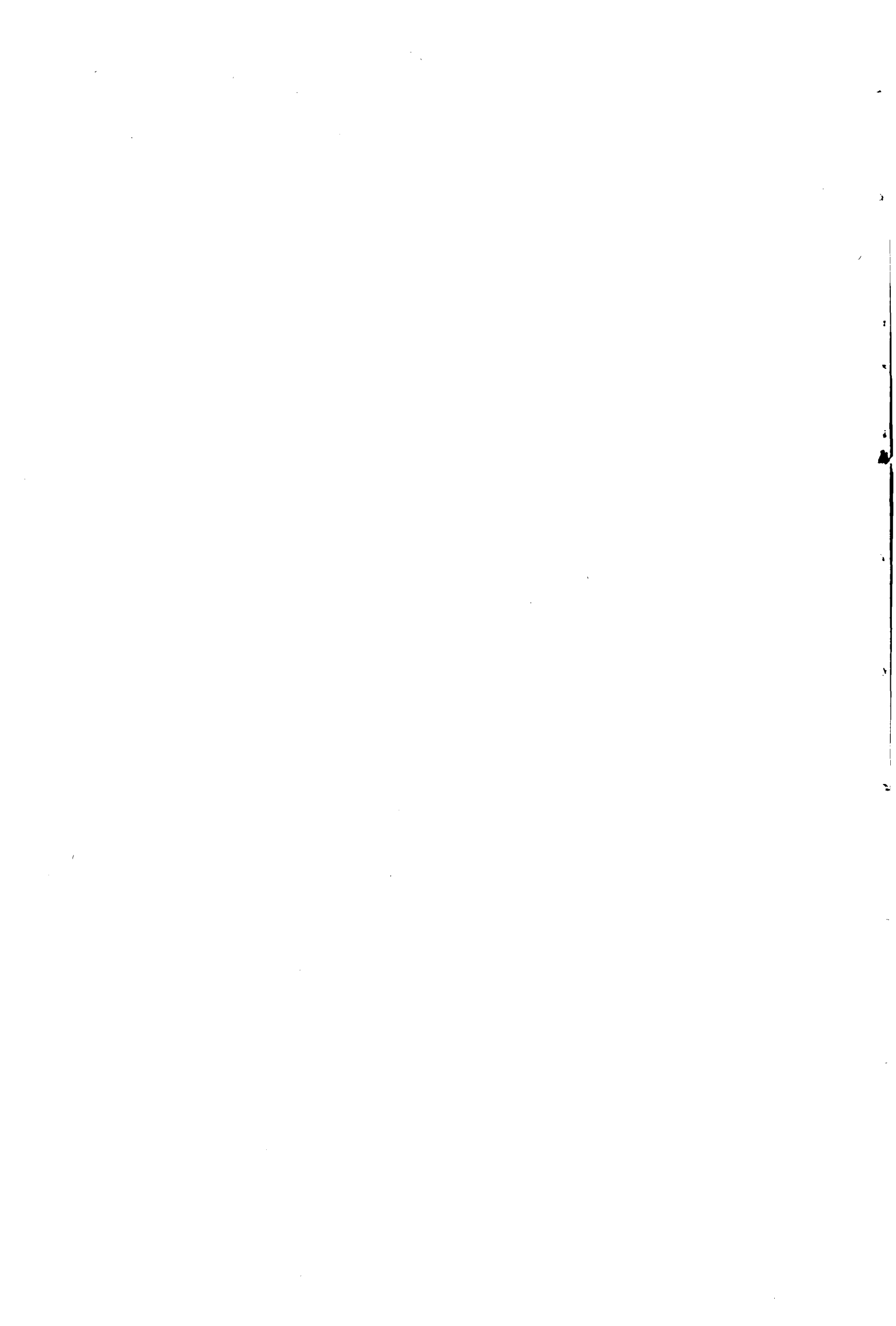
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 219/76) for a Council Regulation extending for the fifth time the system of partial and temporary suspension of Common Customs duties applicable to wines originating in and coming from Turkey provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 2823/71

Rapporteur: Mr F.L. HANSEN

1.2.2

16-11-225



By letter of 30 June 1976 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 42 and 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 extending for the fifth time the system of partial and temporary suspension of Common Customs duties applicable to wines originating in and coming from Turkey provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 2823/71.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

On 5 July 1976 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr HANSEN rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 6 July 1976 and adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement by ten votes to one with one abstention.

Present: Mr Laban, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Liogier, vice-chairman; Mr Hansen, rapporteur; Mr Boano, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Haase, Mr Hughes, Mr Kofoed, Mr De Koning, Mr Ligios and Mr Suck.

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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 extending for the fifth time the system of partial and temporary suspension of Common Customs duties applicable to wines originating in and coming from Turkey provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 2823/71

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(76) 315 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 42 and 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 219/76),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 225/76),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
 2. Invites the Council of the European Communities nevertheless to extend the present preferential system until the entry into force of the definitive system provided for in the Additional Protocol, and therefore, possibly, beyond 31 August 1977, in view of the limited scope of the concession and of the negligible quantities of wine originating in Turkey imported into the Community.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Commission proposal is to extend for the fifth time by another year, that is until 31 August 1977, the preferential system at present in force for imports into the Community of wines originating in Turkey. The system is identical to the one that was in force for Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco but which has now been replaced by the one in the cooperation agreements recently concluded between these three countries and the Community.

2. The system now prolonged provides, until the entry into force of the definitive system mentioned in Article 11 of Annex 6 to the Additional Protocol or until 31 August 1977 at the latest, for a reduction of 40% in Common Customs duties applicable to wines coming from Turkey, without any quantity restrictions. This concession is subject to the Community's reference price being observed.

3. While approving the Commission proposal, the Committee on Agriculture feels obliged to make some remarks.

4. Above all, it should be noted that the Commission text, like almost all similar texts for that matter, lacks any indication of the volume of imports of Turkish wine to the Community in recent years.

Other sources¹ show that imports of Turkish wine to the Community are of negligible importance, and almost all go to the Federal Republic of Germany

<u>Year</u>	<u>hl.</u>	<u>index (1970=100)</u>
1970	20,260	100
1971	4,194	20
1972	4,890	24
1973	5,986	29

5. Bearing in mind that the Common Customs duties applicable to wines with a strength of 13° or less vary from 9 to 12 u.a., and those for wines stronger than 13° from 11 to 14 u.a., the 40% reduction granted if no compensatory tax is levied, that is if the reference price is always observed, has quite negligible financial implications for the Community, loss of duties being of the order of 25,000 u.a.

¹ See for example the Commission report of 18.7.1975 on the foreseeable developments in the planting and replanting of vineyards in the Community and on the ratio between production and utilization in the wine sector (COM. (75) 416 final, table 13).

6. There are rather obvious conclusions to be drawn from all this.

Firstly, why does the Commission annually submit its proposal for extending the preference system this year for the fifth time, for concessions which, all things considered, are of very slight importance either to Turkey or the Community, instead of extending the system for an indefinite period pending entry into force of the definitive system? This would mean a saving in time and money for the Commission departments, for the European Parliament - which in virtue of Article 43 of the Treaty is always consulted - and for the customs services of Member States affected.

7. Secondly, when will the definitive system mentioned in Article 11 of Annex 6 to the Additional Protocol signed in 1970 come into force, and what will that system be? No developments on this point either are expected in the near future.

8. In conclusion, the Committee on Agriculture invites the Council of the European Communities to extend the system in force without time-limit, until the entry into force of the definitive system. The guarantees accompanying the reduction of customs duties, that is, the obligation to observe the reference price, should be sufficient to ensure that no problems result from this extension.

