

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

1973-1974

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13 December 1973

DOCUMENT 273/73

### Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the  
Council (Doc. 249/73) for a decision/ extending the system of minimum prices

Rapporteur : Mr J. DURIEUX

PE 34.939/fin.



By letter of 27 November 1973, the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision extending the system of minimum prices.

On 10 December 1973, Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Durieux rapporteur.

The committee discussed this proposal at its meeting of 4/5 December 1973, when it unanimously approved the motion for a resolution.

The following were present:

Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman; Mr Durieux, rapporteur; Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr John Hill, Mr Ligios, Mr Martens, Mr Radoux, Lord St. Oswald and Mr Scott-Hopkins.

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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 decision extending the system of minimum prices.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities (Doc. COM (73) 1859 fin.),
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 249/73),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 273/73);
1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its Committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Committee on Agriculture has been asked to consider a proposal for a decision extending the system of minimum prices for the period 1 January - 31 December 1974.
2. The European Parliament finds itself faced yet again with a Commission proposal for an extension. It has already delivered opinions on the proposal to extend this system for the period 1 January 1970 - 31 December 1971 (see report by Mr. Kollwelter, Doc. 180/69) 1 January - 31 December 1972 (see report by Mr Kollwelter, Doc. 200/71) and, finally, 1 January 1973 - 31 December 1973 (see report by Mr Kollwelter, Doc. 218/72).
3. At present the minimum price systems provided for under Article 44 of the EEC Treaty and the countervailing charges replacing those prices apply:
  - in the case of countervailing charges replacing the minimum prices: only to potato plants in France and, in Germany, to edible vinegars and their edible substitutes with the exception of edible wine vinegars;
  - in the case of minimum prices proper: only to preserved potatoes in France and to new potatoes in France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg. This minimum price system for preserved potatoes is at present applied, in France, throughout the year; for new potatoes, it applies in France from 15 May to 30 June, in the BLEU from 1 June to 31 July and in Germany from 10 June to 10 August.
4. The Council's decision of 19 December 1972 extended the validity of the system of minimum prices and countervailing charges until the date of introduction of a common organization of the markets for the products in question and until 31 December 1973 at the latest.
5. In the case of:
  - alcohol the proposal for an organization of the market is still under consideration both by the Council and the European Parliament.
  - potatoes no proposal for a common organization of the market has yet been forwarded to the Council. This delay is partly attributable to the special features of this market. In addition, the difficulties encountered in this area have been accentuated by the enlargement of the Community, particularly on account of the highly structured organization in the United Kingdom involving a system of individual quotas, guaranteed prices and deficiency payments. It should also be

noted that the field of application of the price system is strictly limited. It applies in France to preserved potatoes but forms part of a market-regulating policy pursued in cooperation with the producer groups. It applies to new potatoes in Germany, France and Luxembourg but only for 1½ - 2 months a year. While appreciating the difficulties involved, the Committee on Agriculture hopes that appropriate proposals will be submitted soon, since the lack of a common market organization in this sector cannot be allowed to continue.

6. In conclusion, the Committee on Agriculture feels bound to approve the proposal for a decision submitted to it, since it will obviously not be possible to set up a common market organization for the two products in question by 31 December 1973.

