

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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DOCUMENT 1-227/80

Report

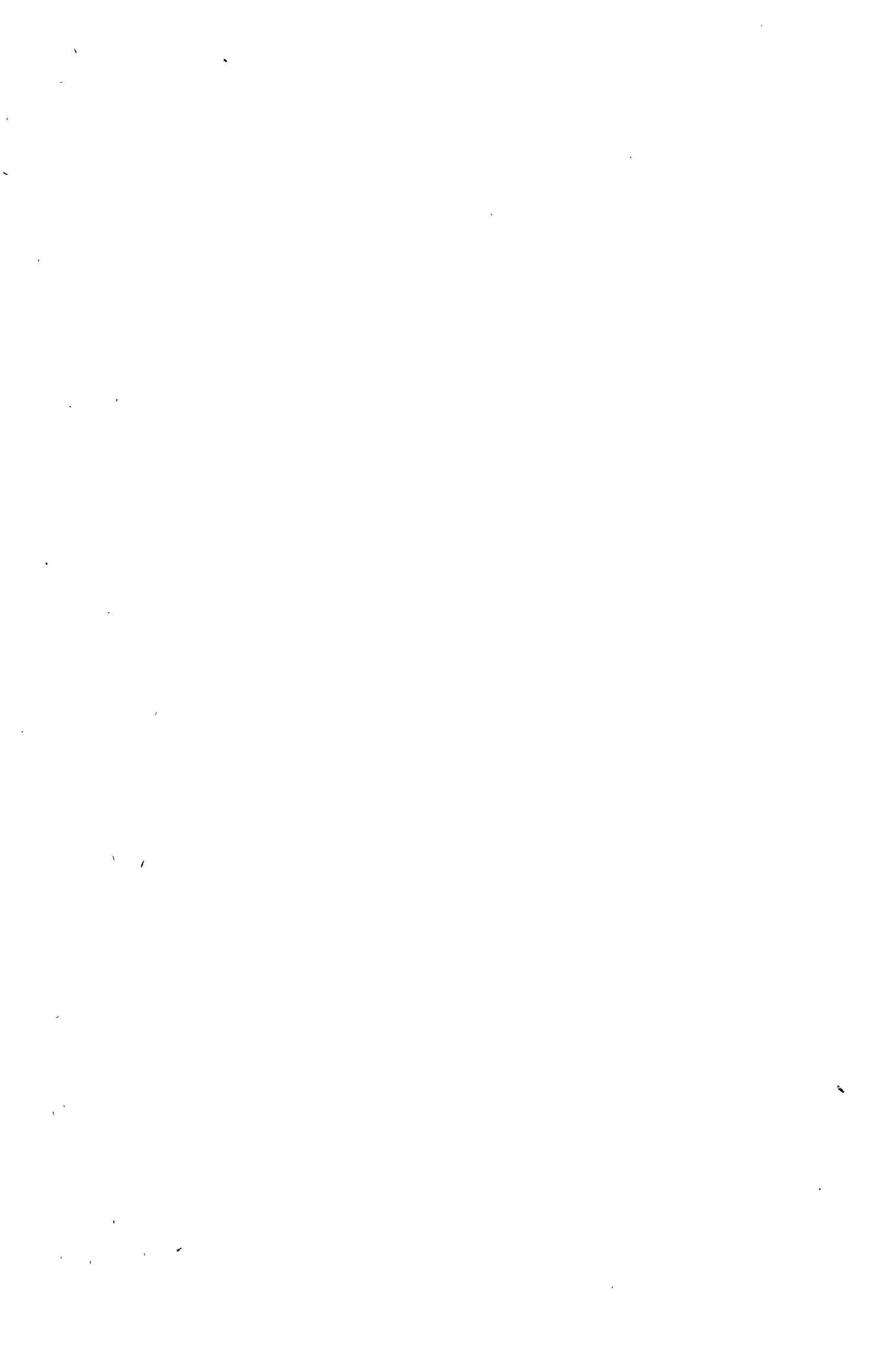
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-158/80) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 337/79 on the common organization of the market in wine

Rapporteur: Mr J. DALSASS

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By letter of 5 May 1980 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. 337/79 on the common organization of the market in wine.

On 14 May 1980 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

At its meeting of 19 May 1980 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Dalsass rapporteur.

It considered the proposal at its meeting of 3-5 June 1980 and at the same meeting adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement by 19 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Dalsass, rapporteur; Mrs Barbarella, Mr Buchou, Mrs Castle, Mr Clinton, Mrs Cresson, Mr Curry, Mr Delatte, Mr Diana, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Howell, Mr Lynge, Mr M. Martin (deputizing for Mr Maffre-Baugé), Mr Newton Dunn, (deputizing for Mr Provan), Mr d'Ormesson, Mr Papapietro, Mr Sutra, Mr Tolman and Mr Woltjer.

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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 amending Regulation (EEC) No. 337/79 on the common organization of the market in wine.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(80)158 final);
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-158/80);
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-227/80);
- having regard to the forthcoming accession of Greece to the European Economic Community;

1. Approves the Commission's proposal.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The forthcoming accession of Greece to the European Economic Community means that Community legislation needs to be adapted straight away to take account of this new state of affairs. The aim of this proposal for a regulation is to make the necessary adjustments.

2. Greece produces resinated wines, 'retsina',¹ whose distinctive taste is achieved by the addition of Aleppo pine resin. Naturally, Greece wants to be able to continue this practice. Thus, in order to ensure that Greek wines are in a position to compete on an equal footing with the other Community wines, Regulation (EEC) No 337/79 on the common organization of the market in wine needs to be amended in the following areas:

a) In order to adjust the wine-growing potential to market requirements, planting and replanting is monitored on the basis of a communication submitted by the Member States to the Commission containing a statement of the area under vines in their national territory.²

These statements are drawn up:

- in the Federal Republic of Germany: by wine-growing region,
- in France: by department,
- in Italy: by province,
- in the other Member States: for the entire national territory.

In the case of Greece, this statement will be drawn up by 'nomos', a 'nomos' being an administrative unit comparable to the French department.

b) The proposal for a regulation complements Article 43 of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79, which prohibits coupage between wines of different types. Consequently, the coupage of a 'retsina' wine with a wine to which Aleppo pine resin has not been added is prohibited. The same applies to musts. Thus, the wines produced by traditional methods in the Community of the Nine will be protected.

¹ Production of 'retsina' varies between 600,000 to 800,000 hl per year

² See Reg. (EEC) No 454/80 - OJ L 57, 29.2.80, p.12

c) Similarly, the use of Aleppo pine resin to produce wines of the 'retsina' type is authorized only in the geographical territory of the Hellenic Republic, thus affording protection both to Greece and to the Community consumer. It should be pointed out that the second indent of Article 1(3) of the proposal for a regulation sets out the provisions of Greek legislation as regards the addition of Aleppo pine resin to grape must.

3. The Commission's proposal can therefore be, as, without affecting the traditional methods of production in the Community of the Nine, it will protect Greek wine-growers and Community consumers against fraudulent practices, while at the same time allowing Greece to continue a wine-making tradition which will serve to enrich the Community's oenological heritage.

