

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WORKING DOCUMENTS

English Edition

1985-86

30 September 1985

SERIES A

DOCUMENT A 2-90/85

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

on the creation of a common organization of the market in table olives and the establishment of a register of olive cultivation in Greece

Rapporteur: Mr K. FILINIS

WG(VS)/2402E PE 99.644/fin-

•		
•		
•		

At its plenary sitting of 14 December 1984, the European Parliament referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Boutos and Mr Stavrou, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the organization of a market in table olives (Doc. 2-1182/84).

At its plenary sitting of 11 February 1985, the European Parliament referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Romeos, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure on the creation of a common organization of the market in table olives (Doc. 2-1265/84). At the same plenary sitting, it referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Romeos, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on Community measures to establish a register of olive cultivation in Greece (Doc. 2-1347/84) to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as the committee responsible, and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

At its meeting of 20 February 1985, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food decided to draw up a report, and at its meeting of 27 February 1985, appointed Mr Filinis rapporteur.

At its meeting of 18 September 1985, the committee considered the draft report. It adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Tolman, chairman; Mr Mouchel, vice-chairman; Mr Filinis, rapporteur (deputizing for Mr Adamou); Mr Borgo, Mr Clinton, Mr Dalsass, Mrs Ewing (deputizing for Mr MacSharry), Mr Fanton, Mr Gatti, Mr Howell (deputizing for Mr Battersby), Mr Jepsen, Mr Lagakos (deputizing for Mr Sutra), Mr Romeos, Mr Sakellariou (deputizing for Mr Wettig) and Mr Thareau.

The Committee on Budgets will not be delivering an opinion.

The report was tabled on 19 September 1985.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

CONTENTS

		Page
Α.	MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
В.	EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	8
	ANNEX I: . Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Boutos and Mr Stavrou on the organization of a market in table olives (Doc. 2-1182/84),	
	ANNEX II: . Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Romeos on the creation of a common organization of the market in table olives (Doc. 2-1265/84),	
	ANNEX III: . Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Romeos on Community measures to establish a register of olive cultivation in Greece (Doc. 2-1347/84)	

The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the creation of a common organization of the market in table olives and the establishment of a register of olive cultivation in Greece

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the following resolutions:
 - by Mr Boutos and Mr Stavrou on the organization of a market in table olives (Doc. 2-1182/84),
 - by Mr Romeos on the creation of a common organization of the market (COM) in table olives (Doc. 2-1265/84),
 - by Mr Romeos on Community measures to establish a register of olive cultivation in Greece (Doc. 2-1347/84),
- whereas, pursuant to Article 70(1) of the Treaty of Accession of Greece to the European Communities, the Commission is required to establish a common organization of the market in table olives by 31 December 1985,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Doc. A 2-90/85),
- A. aware that in the Mediterranean area olive-growing
 - (a) is a traditional activity that forms part of the cultural heritage of those regions,
 - (b) plays a substantial part in the economy of those of its regions where single-crop cultivation is the norm,
 - (c) provides employment for hundreds of thousands of farmers,
- B. whereas table olive production is very often carried on in stretches of land which cannot be used for other crops (hilly or mountainous regions),
- C. noting that the development of the table olive in the last few years has replaced certain difficult crops in the Community, such as tobacco and cereals,
- D. whereas the number of farmers engaged in table olive production amounts to 25% of olive producers, or approximately 350 000 producers, in the Community of Ten,
- E. believing that there is an urgent need to guarantee such producers an adequate income so that they do not give up production and become drawn to the cities, thus contributing to rising urbanism and unemployment, the depopulation of the countryside and the abandonment of productive farmland, leading to a disturbance of the ecological balance,

- F. stressing that it is right and just for table olive producers to be treated in essentially the same way as producers whose products are already included in common organizations of markets,
- G. stressing that in the sector of the table olive, which is a purely Mediterranean product, the Community must take all necessary steps to ensure that the appropriate restructuring in Member States crop-growing patterns takes place, that processing and standardization of the product are improved and that the marketing of it both within the Community and in the rest of the world is facilitated,
- H. Pointing out that most table olive exports from the producer countries go to the Community Member States, thus meeting the needs of those countries with products of exceptional quality,
- I. acknowledging that the flow-patterns in the trade in table olives are due to the existence of a considerable number of migrant workers of Mediterranean origin who regard the product in question as essential to their diet,
- J. noting that table olive production in the Community (of Ten) does not cover the needs of its Member States and that disposal of the product on the international market does not encounter any particular difficulties,
- K. noting that, with the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community, its level of self-sufficiency will exceed 100%, a fact which makes the protection of Community producers a necessity,
- L. believing that there are considerable prospects of Community table olives winning a significant share of world consumption, particularly the markets in the developed countries,
- M. pointing out that, in the case of black olives, the naturally blackened variety retains all its health-giving properties, as opposed to the olive blackened by chemical processing methods,
- N. holding the conviction that work must begin as soon as possible on establishing a register of olive cultivation in Greece,
- whereas a register of olive cultivation cannot be established without drawing up a national land register for Greece,
- P. recognizing that Greece must be given substantial aid in order for it to accomplish such a task, the cost of which, according to current data, exceeds 75 m ECU,
- Q. noting that the Community, in order to cover part of the cost of establishing a register of olive cultivation has to date withheld 7.3 m ECU out of the aid granted to Greek olive producers,
- R. stressing that there has been a reluctance to take action on the part of the Commission,

As regards table olives

- 1. Considers that any future increase in production must be carefully considered, to avoid creating a surplus situation on the world market;
- 2. Points out that the table olive, as a processed product preserved in brine, retains all its rich, nutritive ingredients and could be used to broaden the range of products sent to Third World countries as economic aid;
- 3. Considers that the Community must opt for a system for the common organization of the market which satisfies the following conditions:
 - it safeguards Community producers' incomes,
 - it protects the Community product against the non-Community product,
 - it achieves smooth disposal of the product on the market,
 - it guarantees consumers a standard high-quality product,
 - it simplifies procedures and provides full opportunity for control of the Community market,
 - it minimizes the cost to the Community budget;
- 4. Calls on the Commission to draw up and submit to the Council a proposal for a regulation establishing a common organization of the market in table olives;
- 5. Believes that the common organization of the market must go hand-in-hand with a supplementary policy on table olives aimed at:
 - (a) constant quality improvement in the product,
 - (b) promotion and protection for special varieties,
 - (c) facilitating commercial movement of the product,
 - (d) the establishment of producer groups to centralize, process and market production;

As regards the establishment of a register of olive cultivation in Greece

- 6. Considers that, against the background of the new regulations recently promulgated in the oils and fats sector and the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal, work on establishing a register of olive cultivation in Greece must be speeded up so that all the Community Member States are soon covered by the register of olive cultivation;
- 7. Asks the Commission:
 - to accelerate the procedure for submitting proposals for the start of work on drawing up the register so as to enable a land register also to be established in the regions covered by the register,
 - to include in the 1986 budget an additional heading covering 50% of national expenditure on establishing the register of olive cultivation in Greece,
 - to begin as of the next financial year making available the sums withheld for that purpose from producers;
- 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Governments of the Member States.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Introduction

Table olives and olive oil are temperate zone products and are produced close to coastal regions. The chief constituents of olives that make them an essential form of nutrition are: water, fats, sugars, carbohydrates, proteins, pectins, organic acids, tannins, deuropeins, colouring agents, vitamins and other inorganic substances. Olives are consumed as a basic nutritional food in producer countries and as a delicacy in non-producer countries.

II. Characteristics of table olives

Despite the fact that there is no distinction between oil-producing varieties of olives and table olive varieties, certain criteria have been established with regard to the characteristics of table olives as follows:

- (a) the relatively large size of the fruit (large-fruiting varieties) and especially the ratio of flesh to stone which should be as large as possible in the region of 5-12:1,
- (b) the smallest possible oil content which should be in the region of 20%. High oil content impairs the texture and makes it suitable for feed,
- (c) the highest possible sugar content as this will ferment into lactic acid which, together with salt and anaerobiosis, will preserve the product,
- (d) tough flesh which must retain its properties during the various processing stages; generally speaking, the degree of toughness is affected by the amount of cellulose pectins and other polysaccharides,
- (e) easy separation of the flesh from the stone during eating or stoning,
- (f) a thin or thinnish skin which should be resilient and durable while being handled in the various processing stages.

III. Types of table olives

Table olives which are marketed internationally are categorized into the following types:

- (a) Green olives: are harvested throughout the ripening period before the colour turns to red at the moment they reach the correct size. The harvesting time varies from region to region from mid-September to the end of November.
- (b) <u>Light-coloured olives</u>: come from fruit harvested during the ripening period when the colour changes from green to pinky-red. The harvesting time varies from region to region from mid-October to the end of December.

- (c) Light-coloured olives blackened by oxidization: are prepared from olives harvested before they are fully ripe while they are a greeny-red colour. They are made less bitter by the addition of an alkaline solution and oxidized in an alkaline substance to make them black.
- (d) Natural black olives: are harvested when fully ripe. Their colours vary, depending on the region in which they are produced and the time at which they are harvested, between reddy-black, brown, shades of black, violet and black.

IV. Production of table olives

The main table olive producing countries in the Community are Greece, Italy, France and the two applicant countries, Spain and Portugal. Table olives are cultivated mainly on fertile and irrigated land, but also on land where it is difficult to grow other crops. Over the last 20 years olive trees have been replaced and olive production has expanded to land that was cultivated for cereals or to fallow land and grazing land where cultivation was uneconomical.

Total production varies from year to year since the trees yield their biggest crops every two years.

Another factor which influences the level of production and the quality of the olives is the presence of water in the producer regions since the trees have to be watered between four to six times, depending on the region, for the fruit to be categorized as top quality.

Table 1 below gives the Community and world production figures for table olives for the period 1979/1980 to 1984/1985. From the table it can be seen that Community production amounts to some 45% of world production.

WG(VS)/2402E - 9 - PE 99.644/fin.

TABLE 1

WORLD PRODUCTION OF TABLE OLIVES

in thousand tonnes

COUNTRIES	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	Five-year average
FRANCE ITALY GREECE	2,4 61,8 47,0	2,0 81,4 88,3		2,1 62,0 97,0			
EEC 10 - TOTAL (A)	111,2	171,7	139,1	161,1	146,6	152,0	149,95
SPAIN PORTUGAL	174,0 20,0	155 , 0 20 , 5	160,0 20,2	180,0 20,5	165,0 20,7	200,0 20,7	
EEC 12 - TOTAL (B)	305,2	347,2	319,3	361,6	332,3	372,7	339,72
OTHER COUNTRIES	331,4	435	337,4	460,2	321,5	456,9	390,4
TOTAL (B + C)	636,6	782,2	656,7	821,8	653,8	829,6	730,12

Source: International Olive-growing Council, Madrid

(a) Production problems

As already mentioned, one of the greatest problems for the production of table olives is the lack of water. In the Mediterranean regions the frequency and level of rainfall is, of course, limited. This has direct effects on the quality of the product, the level of production and, finally, producers' incomes. Lack of water for the cultivation of table olives leads, in the final analysis, to the production of olive oil.

Another important problem is the damage caused by frost. In regions affected by frost producers are obliged to harvest their crops early to prevent them from being ruined. This reduces producers' incomes because the price of green olives is always lower than the price of black olives.

In addition to these serious problems, there are other factors to be taken into account such as the need to prune olive trees every year, the need to spray them constantly for protection against various insects such as the olive fly and the fruit fly, phylloxera, frost damage which splits the fruit and destroys the trees making them unable to produce for three to five years, and the fact that olives have to be harvested individually by hand because otherwise the fruit would be ruined and the quality diminished. Table olive cultivation involves very little mechanization (ploughing, irrigation where possible and spraying) and a high degree of manual labour. Pruning and harvesting cannot be done by machines. This is considered to be specialized work which is labour intensive.

(b) Major producer countries

The countries involved in the world production of table olives are, in order of importance, as follows:

22% Spain : 17% Turkey 2. 10% 3. Italy 4. Greece 10% 5. 6.5% Morocco 4.5% 6. Syria 7. Portugal 3% 8. Tunisia 1.5% Israel 1.5% 9. 10-Other countries: 24%

Current Community production (the Community of Ten) amounts to 20% of world production and the figure for the Community of Twelve is some 45% of world production.

V. Consumption of table olives

The main consumer countries of table olives are the producer countries. This is also true in the Community. Olives are almost unknown to consumers in the north. This is, of course, not due to the price which can still be afforded by the poorest households.

Most of the olive consumption in the northern countries of the Community is by immigrants from the southern producer countries who live in the north. If olives were to be advertized, they would become more widely known and more would be consumed in the Community.

The low level of per capita consumption of table olives in the northern countries of the Community and the figures relating to the world consumption of table olives are given in the following table.

WG(VS)/2402E - 11 - PE 99.644/fin.

TABLE 2

CONSUMPTION OF TABLE OLIVES

in thousand tonnes

COUNTRIES	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	six-year average
WEST GERMANY FRANCE UNITED KINGDOM ITALY GREECE OTHER EEC countries	8.6 26.1 2.1 94.8 18.0 0.6	9.4 27.1 2.1 91.2 25.0 0.6	8.8 25.2 1.9 95.0 21.0	9.6 27.5 1.9 90.0 28.0 0.7	8.8 27.8 2.1 90.0 26.0 0.8	9.0 28.0 2.2 90.0 30.0 0.8	
EEC 10 - TOTAL (A)	150.2	155.4	152.7	157.7	155.5	160.0	155.25
SPAIN PORTUGAL	79.0 17.7	73.2 17.7	69.0 17.7	71.0 17.7	70.0 18.0	70.0 18.0	
EEC 12 - TOTAL (B)	246.9	246.3	239.4	246.4	243.5	248	245.08
OTHER COUNTRIES	426.8	467.4	460.6	477.7	450.7	561.5	474.12
TOTAL (B + C)	637.7	713.7	700.0	724.1	694.2	809.5	719.20

Source: International Olive-growing Council, Madrid

(a) Major table olive consuming countries

The major table olive consuming countries are as follows:

1. EEC (10) : 22% : 10% 2. Spain 3. Portugal 2.5% : 16.5% Turkey 5. 1.0% Australia : 15% 6. USA Other countries: 33%

VI. Level of self-sufficiency

The Community of Nine was self-sufficient for some 60% of its needs. Its remaining needs were met by imports from Greece (18%), Spain (38%), Morocco (40%) and other countries (4%). With Greece's accession to the Community, it became totally self-sufficient. Greece's accession did not have a noticeable effect on the Community's trading patterns because a considerable amount of consumption was met before by Greek exports and because Greek products continued to be exported to international markets catering for a substantial amount of world consumption.

With the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community, self-sufficiency will rise to some 140%. It should be pointed out, however, that Spanish products, like Greek products, account for a substantial amount of world production and are amongst the most competitive.

Quality Spanish and Greek olives are a major Community product that can gain an even greater share of the world market.

VII. Processing table olives

As far as technological machinery is concerned, table olive processing units are not at the same level throughout the Member States. There are major differences between the methods of standardizing and producing finished processed products. Even within individual producer countries within the Community, the technological equipment available in processing units differs and is of varying standards. Many processing units need to undergo changes and have more machinery to be able to produce high-quality processed products on a competitive basis. In the producer countries a large number of producers carry out the initial processing stages individually such as, for instance, making the olives less bitter. To a large extent, this facilitates centralization and processing by processing units while guaranteeing a high income for producers and such activity should be encouraged by Community laws. The processing units either belong to individuals or to producer organization cooperatives, but it is rare to come across processing units that belong to producer groups in the Member States.

VIII. Marketing of table olives

(a) Basic categories

Table olives that are marketed internationally are divided into three basic categories:

- a. first class
- b. standard class
- c. market class

Another category of olives, stuffed olives, fall under one of the above headings.

Olives are classified by categories of size depending on the number of fruits contained in one kilo. The scale of categories determined by size and their trade names are as follows:

SUPER MAMMOTH	91/100
MAMMOTH	101/110
SUPER COLOSSAL	111/120
COLOSSAL	121/140
GIANTS	141/160
EXTRA JUMBO	161/180
JUMBO	181/200
EXTRA LARGE	201/230
LARGE	231/260
SUPERIOR	261/290
BRILLIANT	291/320
FINE	321/350
BULLETS	351/380

(b) Packaging of table olives

Table olives destined for final consumption are commercially packaged in jars and cans varying in weight from 200 gms to 5 kilos. For wholesale purposes, larger plastic containers are used with a capacity of up to 150 kilos.

(c) Intra-Community trade

The Community market in table olives is supplied for the most part by Community production and the remainder by exports from the countries of the Iberian peninsula and North Africa. The accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community, coupled with the protection of Community products, will have a partial effect on the patterns of trade from countries of North Africa.

On the other hand, since the olives produced in the Community, and especially those from Spain and Greece, are of exceptional quality, it is expected that the countries will maintain and even increase their exports of table olives to countries where consumer expenditure is high.

IX. Producers' incomes

As a result of the problems attaching to agriculture in the southern regions of the Community such as those associated with small and separate parcels of land, the low-quality soil on which table olives are cultivated, the inability to convert crops, the lack of water which hinders the production of top-quality products, the annual production cycle and the low prices for the products, producers have exceptionally low incomes. In Greece, for example, the annual gross income from table olives varies between 10 000 and 50 000 ECU depending on the size of the holding, the region and the variety of olive produced. In order to improve producers' incomes, it is essential that support be given not only for restructuring production (better varieties, increasing the size of holdings, extending irrigation and frost protection), but also for converting privately owned processing units so as to encourage cooperative processing units and units that belong to producers' associations. Extending the organized activity of producers further into the olive marketing sector will make a substantial contribution to increasing producers' incomes.

WG(VS)/2402E - 14 - PE 99.644/fin.

X. Conclusions

- 1. A large number of farmers in the southern regions of the Community are employed in the cultivation of table olives.
- 2. In these regions where the monoculture of the olive is predominant, olives provide the major source of income for a large number of producers.
- 3. Table olives are a high quality product widely consumed in the producer countries and a delicacy in countries where consumer expenditure is high.
- 4. The Community's expansion to include Spain and Portugal will ensure that the Community is self-sufficient in olives but, at the same time, will require that producers are protected from imported products.
- 5. Table olives are an important Community export which, subject to further improvement, safeguarding of certain Community varieties, advertising and facilitating the commercial movement of finished products, is expected to extend the Community's share of the world market for olives.
- 6. In the production sector, measures need to be taken to restructure production for products of high quality, extend irrigation to more areas, protect production from frost and ensure a regular outlet for products in processing industries.
- 7. Improvements in the quality of table olives will lead to a greater availability of finished products and will lighten the burden on the Community's budget represented by the subsidies for olive production and storing.
- 8. The Community should discourage the blackening of olives by chemical methods and should protect as a special variety the natural black olive which preserves all its health-giving properties.
- 9. Including the table olive under the provisions of the CAP will decrease the number of products from the southern regions of the Community that are not covered by the CAP and will give the producers in these regions the feeling of justice and satisfaction that they are being treated on a par with their counterparts in the Community.
- 10. The Community should choose a system for the common organization of the market thereby guaranteeing a satisfactory income for producers, protection for olives against competing products from third countries, a market outlet for olives, simpler procedures and complete control over the Community market and a reduction in the expenses incurred by the Community budget.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION Document 2-1182/84 tabled by Mr BOUTOS and Mr STAVROU pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the organization of a market in table olives

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the provisions of Article 70 of the Act governing the conditions for the Accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities and the relevant amendments to the Treaties, which authorize the Hellenic Republic, in the case of table olives, to maintain until 31 December 1985 at the latest the national measures required to safeguard the incomes of Greek producers,
- B. having regard to the provisions of the same article whereby the European Community is required to institute Community measures to organize the market in table olives by 31 December 1985 at the latest,
- C. having regard to the importance of table olive production for Greek farmers' incomes, and the volume of such production,
- D. aware that the table olive oil production carried out in certain regions of the country Aetoloakarnania, Fthiotis, Fokis, Messinia, Magnisia, Thasos and Crete makes a decisive contribution to the incomes of the people living in those regions,
- E. aware that in certain regions of the country, owing to climatic and soil conditions, olive-growing is the only form of production possible and cannot be replaced with other crops,
- F. whereas special investments have been made in such regions to ensure the maintenance of production and olive quality,
- G. having regard to the benefits enjoyed by European consumers in the countries which do not produce table olives as a result of the low prices and the quality of Greek olives,
- H. aware that in Greece olive-production is a tradition linked to the country's cultural heritage and national economy,
- 1. Proposes that the Commission, in view of the lengthy procedure required for the drawing up of the relevant directive, address itself to the matter in hand and select appropriate measures to safeguard the incomes of Greek producers of table olives;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Document 2-1265/84

tabled by Mr ROMEOS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the creation of a common organization of the market (COM) in table olives

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas common organization of the market constitutes an essential guarantee for the development and protection of a product,
- B. whereas table olives constitute the only source of income for a considerable part of the farming community, especially in the Mediterranean regions,
- whereas this product faces competition from unrestricted imports from third countries,
- D. aware of the need to safeguard the incomes of those who produce and process table olives from the dangers threatening production and marketing,
- E. whereas there exist considerable opportunities for increasing consumption of table olives on both the Community and world markets,
- F. aware that, in the interests of more effective consumer protection, steps must be taken to improve the quality of the product by introducing uniform rules regarding standardization, packaging and quality controls,
- G. whereas the third enlargement of the Community, which is now imminent, will create problems for the olive-growing sector too, unless all necessary measures are taken beforehand,
- H. recalling the commitment undertaken by the Commission to submit by 30 June 1985 proposals pursuant to Regulation 136/66, Article 42(b) on the setting up of a common organization of the market in respect of table olives,
- 1. Calls on the Commission to submit at an early date its proposals regarding the common organization of the market (COM) in respect of table olives, the objectives of which shall be as follows:
 - to safeguard the incomes of Community producers,
 - to protect Community produce from products from third countries,
 - to provide consumers with a standardized high-quality product,
 - to promote the smooth movement and disposal on the market of table olives so that no surpluses are created,
 - to ensure the possibility of full market control;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the Governments of the Member States of the Community.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION Document 2-1347/84

by Mr ROMEOS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on Community measures to establish a register of olive cultivation in Greece

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas it is necessary to collect data to establish the Community production potential in table olives and olive oil and to ensure a better functioning of the Community aid arrangements for this product,
- B. whereas the financing required to establish a register of olive cultivation is covered by deductions on aid previously granted to olive-growers, as provided for in Regulation 136/66,
- C. whereas by the end of 1983 these deductions amounted to 7.3 m ECU,
- D. whereas Regulation 1416/82 provides for further deductions of 2.5% to be levied on aid payments to olive-growers in Greece up to the end of 1990,
- whereas the cost of establishing the register of olive cultivation in Greece amounts to 7,500 ECU per Sq. Km. and thus far exceeds the cost of the Italian register, which amounts to only 1,944 ECU per Sq. Km,
- F. whereas in Greece the cost of establishing a register for olive cultivation is intolerably high - ar estimated 75,000,000 ECU: 48,000,000 ECU for the cost of the cadaster and 27,000,000 ECU for the register,
- G. whereas the Commission should step up its efforts so that this project can contribute to a better management of the aid regime and allow greater transparency as regards allocations from the Fund,
- whereas, although Regulation 151/75 provides for time-limits for the beginning and completion of the project, the Commission does not appear to have so far taken any steps towards submitting proposals for the establishment of a register of olive cultivation in Greece,

Calls on the Commission:

- to speed up the procedure for submitting proposals so that work can begin on the register so as to enable a cadaster to be established at the same time for areas covered by the register;
- 2. to start making available the sums atready deduct a from financial aid for olive-growers;
- 3. to finance the establishment of the Greek register of olive cultivation as part of the national cadaster;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments of the Member States.