

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

8 MAY 1978

DOCUMENT 105/78

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LIGIOS, Mr PISONI, Mr PUCCI, Mr BRUGGER, Mr GRANELLI, Mr VERNASCHI, Mr BERSANI, Mr RIPAMONTI, Mr MARTINELLI, Mr FIORET, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mr TOLMAN, Mr NOE' and Mr McDONALD on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group (EPP Group)

with request for urgent debate pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- I. / a regulation establishing a European Joint-Trade Table Wine Organization
- II. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine

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PE 53.493

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(78) 55 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 564/77),
 - whereas the Council of Ministers of the European Communities should take a decision on these Commission proposals during its meeting of 8, 9 and 10 May devoted to the fixing of agricultural prices for the next marketing year and the adoption of the 'Mediterranean package',
 - whereas it is therefore advisable and urgent for the European Parliament to deliver its opinion on the subject in order to avoid the Council's taking a decision without being aware or taking account of Parliament's opinion,
 - whereas, moreover, Parliament has already stated that it is generally opposed to the Commission's proposals,
1. Confirms the position previously taken by it in the resolution on the fixing of agricultural prices for the 1978/79 marketing year¹, i.e. 'rejects the proposal to introduce the principle of a minimum price for wine marketing because this is a partial and punitive measure which is liable to result in an excessive increase in distillation costs';
 2. Believes in fact that the introduction of a minimum price for intra-Community trade in wine, as well as a temporary freezing of the market, could disrupt the whole common agricultural policy, since, once this principle is accepted, it could, with disastrous consequences for the whole Community, be extended to other products such as milk, meat or cereals which currently circulate freely in the Community from countries with a surplus to those with a deficit;
 3. Expresses serious doubts as to the legal bases of the proposed measures, which are unprecedented in the history of the common agricultural policy and will undoubtedly be contested in the Court of Justice;
 4. Believes that a solution to the problems of surpluses is not to be found in such restricted market measures but in structural measures already announced and partly initiated by the Commission; by promoting consumption in areas and countries where it is still very low; by improving existing mechanisms (distillation, wine deliveries, etc.); by greater use of grape musts and juices and, in the long term, by concentrating production in areas eminently suitable for viticulture;
 5. Rejects the Commission's proposals for all these reasons, and invites it to submit to the Council and to Parliament new, more realistic proposals that take account of the interests at stake and of their own possible implications;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

¹ OJ No. C85, 10.4.1978, p.35