

Newsletter on the Common Agricultural Policy

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Starting in April, the "Newsletter on the Common Agricultural Policy" will again appear regularly.	

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RESULTS OF THE VINTAGE RETURNS FROM THE MEMBER STATES FOR 1971/72

The vintage returns sent by the Member States to the Commission, pursuant to Regulation N° 134/62 (EEC), compared with the forecast estimates drawn up early in December, show the following results :

- The Community wine production figure of 133.2 million hectolitres, quoted in the forecast estimates, has not in fact been reached. According to the results stated in the vintage returns, production was 130.7 million hectolitres only. This difference is due to the poor harvest in France and in Italy. The shortfall was 1.5 million hectolitres in France and 1 million in Italy. In Germany and in Luxembourg, statistical differences between forecast estimates and vintage returns are insignificant. Final results are as follows :

Belgium	0.010	million	hectolitres
Germany	5.533	"	"
France	61.330	"	"
Italy	63.741	"	"
Netherlands	0.010	"	"
EEC	130.708	"	"

- Available quantities, at 210.3 million hectolitres, stand at 16.7 million hectolitres below those for 1970/71.
- Allowing for an average consumption of about 145 million hectolitres, stocks will have come down to about 65 million hectolitres at the end of the current wine-growing year. As a result, final stocks from 1969/70 and 1970/71 will be well below this figure.

NEW PROPOSAL FOR A COMMISSION DIRECTIVE ON ANIMAL FEED

The Commission has just proposed to the Council a directive amending the directive of 20 July 1970 on the institution of Community sampling procedures and methods of analysis for the official control of animal feed.

The directive instituting Community sampling procedures and methods of analysis provides that the procedure established in this sector, which involves the Permanent Committee on Animal Feed, is only applicable for a period of 18 months.

When approving the directive, the Council had made the following statement in this connection :

"The Council agrees that, before the expiry of the period envisaged in this article, it will determine by a unanimous vote, on a proposal from the Commission, the arrangements to be made thereafter. To this end, it agrees to prepare its decision in the course of the three months preceding the expiry of the period envisaged, in particular on the basis of the experience obtained, and making every effort to avoid jeopardizing the effective application of the arrangements in the animal feed sector".

Starting with its meeting of 15 and 16 December 1970, the Permanent Committee on Animal Feed considered draft Commission directives. After thorough discussion, it was able in every case to give unanimous opinions enabling the Commission to approve two directives fixing a number of Community methods of analysis (1). Other drafts, now being prepared, will be put before the Permanent Committee in the coming months.

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1. First directive, dated of 15 June 1971, on the quantitative analysis of the content in hydrocyanic acid, calcium, carbonates, raw ashes, ashes not soluble in HCL, chlorine chloride (chlorure des chlorures), essence of mustard, lactose, potassium, sodium, sugars, theobromine and urea, and the determination of alkaloids in lupins as well as the ureasic activity of soya products. (J.O. N° L.155 of 12.7.1971).

Second directive, dated of 18 November 1971, on the quantitative analysis of the content in humidity, volatile nitrogenous bases, total phosphorus and raw fats (J.O. N° L.279 of 20.12.1971).

Experience so far has shown, while taking into account the interests of the various Member States, that the procedure makes it possible to arrive at a swift decision on the Community methods required.

It may therefore be concluded that, following on this experimental period, no justification exists for a change in present procedure.

NEW PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMISSION FOR DIRECTIVES ON SEEDS AND
SEEDLINGS

The Commission has just proposed to the Council two directives amending the directives of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of beet seeds, fodder plant seeds, cereal seed grain and seed potatoes, the directive of 30 June 1969 on the marketing of oil and fibre plant seeds and the directives of 29 September 1970 on the marketing of vegetable seeds and the common catalogue of the varieties of cultivated plant species.

1. One of the two proposals refers only to a single article of all the above-mentioned directives ; this article, which is to be amended under an emergency procedure, deals with the recognition of an equivalence :

- between on-the-spot inspection procedures
- in the case of seeds produced in third countries
- in the case of the measures taken by third countries concerning the catalogue of varieties, as it refers to agricultural and market gardening species.

It is proposed to insert, in all the directives, a clause which will make it possible to recognize, after the accession of the new Member States, and in accordance with a procedure similar to that adopted for third countries, an equivalence for their measures, valid until the date when these States have to translate the EEC directives into their national legislation (that is 1/7/1975 for basic seeds and 1/7/1976 for certified seeds).

In the absence of Community decisions it is further proposed to extend to 1/7/1973 the 1st July 1972 deadline envisaged in the directives of 14 July 1966 for national recognition of equivalence.

2. The other proposal for a directive includes amendments resulting from lengthy preparatory work, whose approval is less urgent. The scope of these amendments may be summarized as follows :

The directives on the marketing of seeds and seedlings set up a marketing system which applies essentially to basic seeds and seedlings and to certified seeds and seedlings.

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The application of these directives showed that it was necessary to introduce certain concessions intended also to facilitate trade in selection stock belonging to generations prior to the basic seeds and seedlings.

The means envisaged in the above-mentioned directives for the elimination of supply difficulties, as regards seeds and seedlings, have proved inadequate. Hence one should also allow the possibility of having recourse, in the event of difficulties in overall supply, to seeds or seedlings of varieties not normally accepted in the Member States.

At the same time it is necessary to make some changes in technical provisions, especially as regards the marketing of seed potatoes and the catalogue of cultivated plant varieties.