

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 341 final

Brussels, 15 June 1982

Amendment to the
Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
amending Regulation (EEC) No 338/79 laying down special provisions relating
quality wines produced in specified regions (1)

(submitted by the Commission to the Council under
the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC
Treaty)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Community provisions oblige the producer Member States to fix the minimum natural alcoholic strength for each quality wine p.s.r. to ensure a satisfactory quality standard for these wines. These alcoholic strengths must comply with the minimum limits for the various wine-growing zones laid down in Article 7(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 338/79 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3578/81 ⁽²⁾. Experience has shown that in some northern wine-growing regions of zone A, wines of a satisfactory quality may be obtained from grapes which do not quite reach the prescribed minimum natural alcoholic strength, in particular in the case of late varieties. To prevent wine-growers abandoning these varieties in favour of early varieties which produce a wine which is generally not as good, the minimum natural alcoholic strength for these regions should be reduced by 0,5 % vol.

(1) OJ No L 54, 5. 3.1979, p. 48

(2) OJ No L 359, 15.12.1981, p. 1

Amendment to the proposal for Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 338/79 Laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions (1)

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council under the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty).

I. Amendment to the recitals:

The following recital is added:

"Whereas Article 7(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 338/79 fixes, for the various wine-growing zones, the minimum alcoholic strengths which must be respected by Member States when establishing the rules on production for each quality wine p.s.r.; whereas experience has shown that in certain northern wine-growing regions of wine-growing zone A, wine of a satisfactory quality may be obtained from grapes which do not quite reach the prescribed minimum natural alcoholic strength, in particular in the case of late varieties; whereas to prevent wine growers abandoning varieties which have on average over ten years produced very good wine, in favour of early varieties which give a wine which is generally less good, the minimum natural alcoholic strength in these regions should be reduced by 0.5% vol;

II. Amendment to the Articles:

The following paragraph is inserted into Article 1:

(1) OJ No C 206, 14.8.1981, p. 11.

"1a. Article 7(2) is replaced by the following:

'2. Except for derogations adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 67 of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79, the alcoholic strengths referred to in paragraph 1 may not be less than :

- 6.5% vol in zone A, with the exception of the specified regions "Mosel-Saar-Ruwer", "Ahr", "Mittelrhein" and "Moselle luxembourgeoise" in which the said alcoholic strength shall be 6%,
- 7.5% vol in zone B,
- 8.5% vol in zone C I (a),
- 9% vol in zone C I (b),
- 9.5% vol in zone C II,
- 10% vol in zones C III (a) and C III (b).

The zones referred to above are those defined in Annex IV to Regulation (EEC) No 337/79. ' "