

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(77) 470 final.

Brussels, 3 October 1977

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
amending Regulation (EEC) No 879/73 on the granting and
reimbursement of aid accorded by the Member States
to recognized producer groups in the hop sector

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
on structural measures in the hops sector

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(77) 470 final.



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The measures which are subject of the two enclosed proposals for Regulation are presented following the adoption by the Council of Regulation (EEC) No 1170/77 of 17 May 1977 which amends Regulation (EEC) No 1696 on the common organization of the market in hops.

They concern the application of structural measures (prohibition of increase in the areas from 1 July 1977 until 31 December 1979 - aid to producer groups for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of hop gardens provided that such operations entail a reduction of at least 40 % in the area under hops).



Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC)

amending Regulation (EEC) N° 879/73 on the granting and reimbursement of aid accorded by the Member States to recognized producer groups in the hop sector

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71 of 26 July 1971 on the common organization of the market in hops ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) N° 1170/77 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 10 (1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 1170/77 amended the conditions formerly laid down by the recognition of hop producer groups ; whereas aid should be granted for the setting up and operation of producer groups not only to associations in existence at the time of the entry into force of Regulation (EEC) N° 1170/77 but also to groups recognized at an earlier date, insofar as both incur expenditure in the form of adaptation costs ;

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) N° of on structural measures in the hop sector ⁽³⁾ has laid down general rules on the granting of aid for conversion to other varieties and the reorganization of hop gardens as provided for in Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71 ; whereas, for administrative reasons, therefore, Title II of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 879/73 of 23 March 1973 on the granting and reimbursement of aid accorded by the Member States to recognized producer groups in the hop sector ⁽⁴⁾ should be repealed ;

(1) OJ N° L 175, 4. 8.1971, p. 1

(2) OJ N° L 137, 3. 6.1977, p. 7

(3) OJ N° L p.

(4) OJ N° L 86, 31. 3.1973, p. 26

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 879/73 is amended to read as follows:

"Article 6

Producer associations in existence on 1 July 1977 and producer groups which had, prior to this date, been recognized as provided for in Article 7 (3) of Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71 shall qualify for the aid provided for in Article 8 (1) of that same Regulation only if, and insofar as, they incur expenditure in adapting to satisfy the conditions laid down in Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71."

Article 2

Title II of Regulation (EEC) N° 879/73 is repealed.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on,

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at

For the Council

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC)

on structural measures in the hops sector

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71 of 26 July 1971 on the common organization of the market in hops ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) N° 1170/77 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 10 (1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71 prohibits from 1 July 1977 onwards any increase in the areas planted with hops ; whereas this prohibition is to apply to all producers and their legal successors ; whereas, in the case of producer groups, this prohibition is to cover the areas cultivated by each associated producer ; whereas it must nevertheless be laid down that this prohibition shall not apply to areas planted with hops after 1 July 1977 in place of previously registered areas on which hops are no longer planted ;

Whereas Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71 lays down that the Member States may grant recognized producer groups aid for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of hop gardens, provided that such operations entail a reduction of at least 40 % in the area under hops ; whereas, to facilitate the supervision of the granting of such aid, it is necessary to lay down that these operations be set forth in a plan which the producer groups shall submit to the authorities appointed by the Member States granting the aid ;

(1) OJ N° L 175, 4.8.1971, p. 1

(2) OJ N° L 137, 3.6.1977, p. 7

Whereas in Ireland hops are cultivated by a small number of producers belonging to a single group; whereas operations involving conversion to other varieties and the reorganization of hop gardens will cease to be economically justified in this Member State if they entail a reduction of 40% or more in the area concerned; whereas this Member State should be permitted to waive the obligation to reduce the area concerned;

Whereas, to ensure that the aid provided for in Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1696/71 is economically effective, it is necessary to provide that areas on which grubbing operations are carried out shall not be replanted with hops for a period of three years;

Whereas the producer groups must share out among their members the aid granted to them; whereas, however, it is fair to provide that a larger share of the aid be granted to associated producers who abandon the cultivation of hops on the whole of the area which they possess, under the plan for conversion to other varieties and the reorganization of hop gardens submitted by the group to which they belong;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Title I : Prohibition on extension of areas planted with hops.

Article 1

Until 31 December 1979 no areas planted with hops may be registered other than those registered by 30 June 1977 and worked by individual producers or their legal successors or by producers who are associated within recognized groups.

However, areas cultivated in place of areas registered at 30 June 1977 may be registered after this date, on condition that they are no larger than those areas which they replace.

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Article 2

The Member States shall take all necessary steps to supervise the registration of hop gardens.

In the case of hop gardens worked by producers associated within recognized groups, the supervision may be exercised by treating a recognized group as a single producer.

Title II : Aid for conversion to other varieties and the reorganization of hop gardens

Article 3

1. The aid for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of hop gardens as provided for in Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71 shall be granted to producer groups recognized under Article 7 of that same Regulation on presentation to the authorities appointed by the Member States of a plan for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of hop gardens which entails at least a 40 % reduction in the total area registered by associated producers at 30 June 1977.

2. By way of derogation from Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) N° 1696/71, the aid for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of hop gardens may be granted in Ireland without the obligation to reduce the area concerned having been fulfilled.

Article 4

For a period of three years after the implementation of the plan to convert to other varieties or to reorganize hop gardens, a producer group may not plant with hops an area greater than that resulting from the application of that plan.

Article 5

1. The conversion to other varieties must include the replacement of plants with the variety or varieties chosen by the group.

2. The plots which are reorganized must have an area of at least one hectare forming a single continuous block once their reorganization has been completed.

Article 6

1. Subject to an upper limit of 1.800 units of account per hectare covered by the plan provided for in Article 4, the aid shall be calculated on the basis of actual expenditure :

- on seedlings in the case of conversion operations,
- on materials and equipment, in the case of reorganisation of hop gardens,
- on grubbing-up in the case of operations designed to reduce the areas under hops

2. Each producer group qualifying for the aid referred to in Article 4 (1) shall apportion such aid among its members, taking into account their participation in the plan for conversion to other varieties and for the reorganization of the hop gardens. A proportionately greater share may be allocated to producers who have completely grubbed up the hops planted on their area.

Article 7

The Member States shall take all necessary steps to supervise the reduction of areas referred to in Article 4 (1).

Article 8

The Member States shall inform the Commission before 31 December 1977 of their decision on whether or not to grant the aid provided for in Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1696/71.

Article 9

This Regulation shall enter into force on

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at

For the Council