

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 July 1980

DOCUMENT 1-302/80

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture  
on the proposal from the Commission of the  
European Communities to the Council (Doc.1-133/80) for a  
regulation amending Regulation (EEC)  
No. 357/79 on ~~on~~ statistical surveys of areas  
under vines

Rapporteur: Mr A. COLLESELLI

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By letter of 23 April 1980 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 357/79 on statistical surveys of areas under vines.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

At its meeting of 3-5 June 1980 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Colleselli rapporteur.

It considered the proposal at its meetings of 17 June and 7 July 1980 and at the latter meeting adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement by 15 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Colleselli, rapporteur; Miss Barbarella, Mr Battersby, Mr Blaney (deputizing for Mr Skovmand), Mr Clinton, Mr Curry, Mr Dalsass, Mr Diana, Mr Gautier, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Howell, Mr de Keersmaeker (deputizing for Mr Tolman), Mr Maher, Mr Mertens (deputizing for Mr Helms), Miss Quin and Mr Vitale.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 357/79 on statistical surveys of areas under vines

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-133/80),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-302/80),
1. Recognizes the real difficulties encountered by Italy in carrying out the first basic statistical survey of areas under vines and her commitment, in spite of these difficulties to supply the Commission with all data necessary for a full understanding of the situation;
  2. Requests the Commission to propose 31 December 1981 as the deadline for carrying out the first basic survey on areas under vines in Italy;
  3. Also requests the Commission to examine in conjunction with the government concerned the possibility of carrying out the survey in Italy using techniques similar to those already planned for the register of olive cultivation, namely aerial photography, remote surveys and electronic data processing so as to improve the quality of the results and enable the planned intermediate surveys to be carried out as quickly and efficiently as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 107, 30.4.1980, p.9

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Under Regulation (EEC) No. 357/79 of 5 February 1979, wine-producing Member States are **expected** to carry out basic surveys of areas under vines every ten years and intermediate surveys annually.
2. The Commission submitted the present proposal to the Council on 16 April 1980. It is intended to:
  - enable Italy, as a result of some unforeseeable difficulties, to carry out the first basic survey on areas under vines one year later than the date provided for (31 March 1980),
  - impose a legal obligation to forward **separately** information of changes in the form of new plantings or replantings during the intermediate survey of areas under vines cultivated with wine grape varieties.
3. For technical and organizational reasons the basic survey is carried out by the Italian Statistical Institute (ISTAT) as part of the national agricultural census. Because a general election was called earlier than expected, it was not possible to have the draft law providing for general censuses, including the agricultural census, approved in time by the Italian Parliament. Consequently, at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of 12/13 November 1979, Italy asked for the time limits laid down in Regulation 357/79 to be extended by one year.
4. Italy subsequently announced that this extension would be insufficient, because the draft law tabled in Parliament on 8 February 1980 had not yet been passed. In addition the national agricultural survey would have to be carried out in the autumn of 1981, barring unforeseen developments.
5. For these reasons the deadline for the first basic survey ought to be extended in the case of Italy until 31 December 1981.

Although Italy is unable to carry out the basic survey any sooner, she has promised to provide the Commission with all the necessary information required under Regulation 357, particularly that concerning natural alcoholic strength and the mean yield per hectare, by using all the statistical instruments at her disposal.

6. Although the delay in carrying out the survey is regrettable since it will now be some years before reliable and up-to-date information on wine production is available, one has to recognize the real difficulties encountered by Italy - particularly as Parliament went into recess earlier than expected - and her commitment despite these difficulties to supply the most important information required by the Community.

The Committee on Agriculture has accepted 31 December 1981 as the deadline.

7. However it is necessary to consider ways of improving the survey method by using techniques already available for compiling the register of olive cultivation<sup>1</sup> in the olive-growing areas.

It is necessary to keep up-to-date information for the purpose of determining agricultural policy. This can be done by means of advanced technology data collection and processing methods. The extensive experience gained with these methods throughout the world and the series of experiments carried out for the register of olive cultivation, which has the same objective as the vines survey and on which work will soon start, have shown the excellent results obtainable using techniques such as aerial photography, remote surveys and electronic data-processing. These techniques will ensure that the data are kept systematically up-to-date as the Community rules require.

Consideration should also be given to the possibility of entrusting the work of carrying out the survey to a consortium which would allow interested groups to take part, as has been done for the register of olive cultivation.

As well as possibly saving time this would also ensure results of the highest quality. The Commission should also carefully consider this possibility in conjunction with the Member State concerned.

8. No particular comment need be made on the separate forwarding of information on new plantings and replantings since this is a technical modification which may contribute to a better understanding of trends in Community viticulture.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EEC) No. 154/75, OJ No. L 19, 21.4.1975 and implementing Regulation No. 2276/79 of 16.10.1979, OJ No. L 262, 18.10.1979.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the acting chairman of the Committee on Budgets to Sir Henry PLUMB, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture

Luxembourg, 12 June 1980

Subject: Proposal for a regulation amending regulation (EEC) No. 357/79 on statistical surveys of areas under vines (Doc. 1-133/80)

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal at its meeting of 3 and 4 June 1980.

The proposal provides for the amendment of regulation (EEC) No. 357/79 on statistical surveys of areas under vines to allow Italy a further year to carry out the survey. This will not entail any additional costs. The appropriations amounting to 595,000 EUA earmarked for Italy for 1979 need only be carried over to the 1980 budget. Without prejudice to the decision still to be taken on the adoption of the budget, the committee can therefore give a favourable opinion on the proposal.

However, it would urge the committee responsible to investigate the 'unforeseeable difficulties' which prevented the surveys from being carried out within the prescribed period and to consider whether this could affect the appropriations for the common organization of the market in wine.

Furthermore, provision should be made in future in the basic regulations for sanctions to ensure that Member States respect deadlines.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Notenboom  
Acting Chairman

Present:

Mr Notenboom, 1st Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman; Mr Rossi, Vice-Chairman; Mr Arndt, Mrs Boserup, Mr Baillot, Mr Balfe, Mr Colla, Mr Forth, Mr Gouthier, Mr Nord, Lord O'Hagan, Mrs Pruvot (deputizing for Mrs Scrivener), Mr Schön.