

European Communities

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## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 525/75) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2506/75 laying down special rules for the importation of products in the wine-growing sector originating in certain third countries

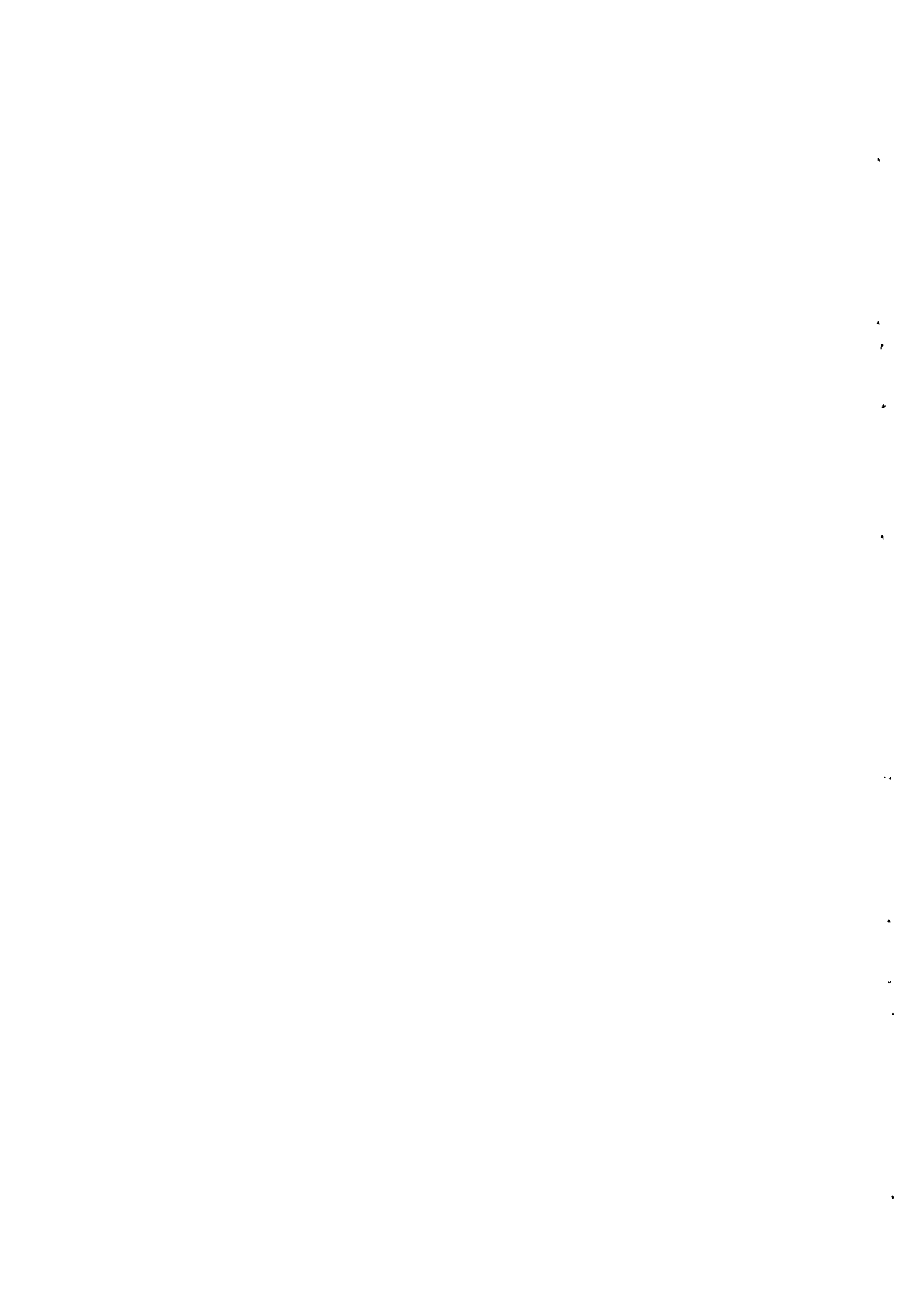
Rapporteur: Mr H. FREHSEE

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English Edition

PE 43.899/fin.



By letter of 6 February 1976 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. 2506/75 laying down special rules for the importation of products in the wine-growing sectors originating in certain third countries.

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

On 19 February 1976 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Frehsee rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 13 and 14 April and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman, Mr Frehsee, rapporteur; Mr Berkhouwer (deputizing for Mr Bourdellès), Mr Brégégère, Mr Früh, Mr Hansen, Mr Kofoed, Mr de Koning, Mr Martens, Mr Schwabe (deputizing for Mrs Orth), Mr Seefeld (deputizing for Mr Della Briotta), and Mr Suck.

The opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations is attached.

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A

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. 2506/75 laying down special rules for the importation of products in the wine-growing sector originating in certain third countries

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. 525/75),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. 60/76),

approves the Commission's proposal.

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<sup>1</sup>OJ No. C30, 10. 2.1976, p. 7

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. In its decision of 23/24 June 1975, the Council agreed that measures should be taken to provide for careful control of wine imports from third countries; the result was the adoption on 29 September 1975 of Regulation No. 2506/75/EEC laying down special rules for the importation of products in the wine-growing sector originating in certain third countries. This regulation was intended to make it possible for the responsible authorities in the Member States to check that the reference prices in respect of wine imports to the Community were being observed.

The practical application of this regulation necessitates the fixing of free-at-frontier reference prices, which would have to be published by the Commission in appropriate implementing regulations. Since the trade normally sets wine prices by tenths of a degree and the reference prices are expressed in the 'green currencies' of the individual Member States, whilst wine duties are quoted at the rates which have been officially notified to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), involved and complex calculations are necessary, and these have yet to be completed. Regulation No. 2506/75, which was rather precipitously enacted, can therefore not yet be applied in practice.

2. The negotiations with the Maghreb countries have been completed in the meantime, but the agreements will not enter into force until around May of this year, when they have been ratified by the national parliaments.

The Commission is now proposing that Regulation No. 2506/75 should only become applicable from 1 July 1976, on the assumption that it will be possible to publish the implementing rules together with the free-at-frontier reference prices at the same time. This would allow the new system to be applied by the national authorities.

3. To make it possible to bridge the period between the entry into force of the Maghreb agreements and the eventual application of the system provided for in Regulation No. 2506/75, the Commission wants to add an Article 5(a) permitting it to adopt temporary transitional measures in accordance with the Management Committee procedures. This would in practice involve an extension of the existing reference price arrangements<sup>1</sup>. What is not clear, however, is why the transitional measures need to remain applicable until 1 July 1977, if the new system is already to enter into force on 1 July 1976. Both these dates should, after all, coincide.

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<sup>1</sup>See Article 9 of Regulation No. 816/70 of 28.4.1970, OJ No. L 99/10 of 5.5.1970

4. The final point concerns the legal question of how a Community provision, which has already been in force since 1 November 1975, can be amended by a new regulation so as only to be applicable from 1 July 1976.

5. The European Parliament, on a proposal from the Committee on Agriculture,<sup>1</sup> already expressed its agreement to the proposal for a regulation on 25 September 1975. It is aware that its practical implementation has given rise to a variety of technical difficulties which must inevitably lead to some delay in the application of the regulation. However, since the agreements with the Maghreb countries have not yet entered into force, this delay is of no great consequence.

Your committee therefore recommends that Parliament approve the Commission's proposal for a regulation.

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<sup>1</sup>See Frehsee Report (Doc. 254/75), OJ No. C 239 of 20.10.1975

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Draftsman: Mr J-F. PINTAT

On 17 February 1976 the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Jean-Francois Pintat draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 13 April 1976 and adopted it unanimously with 3 abstentions at its meeting of 20 April 1976.

Present: Mr Schmidt (deputizing for the chairman); Mr Bayerl, Mr Brégégère, Lord Castle, Mr D'Angelosante, Mr Delmotte (deputizing for Mr Barnett), Mr Didier, Mr Dykes, Mr Klepsch, Mr Laban, Mr Maigaard, Mr Nyborg, Mr Pintat, Mr Radoux, Mr Schwörer, Mr Vande and Lord Walston.



Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2506/75 of 25 September 1975 laid down special rules for the importation of products in the wine-growing sector originating in certain third countries. This Regulation provides that the Commission shall fix the free-at-frontier reference prices according to the origin of the imported products.

Work on finalizing rules for the implementation of this system has shown it to be so complex that the trade, the Community administrations and the authorities of third countries would find it difficult to put into practice.

The Commission has therefore attempted to simplify the abovementioned Regulation.

It proposes that the date of application of this Regulation should be deferred to 1 July 1976, and that the Commission should be empowered, under the Management Committees procedure, to take any transitional measures that may be required.

As it merely involves deferring the date of application of Regulation (EEC) No. 2506/75, and will thus have no financial implications for the Community budget, the Committee on External Economic Relations approves the Commission's present proposal for a regulation.

