Hops: common organisation of the market COM (amend. regul. 1696/71/EEC)

1997/0066(CNS) - 22/07/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to adopt a "mini reform" of the hop market with a view to adjusting the sector to market requirements and making a set of partially temporary measures permanent. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 1554/97 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1696/71 on the common organization of the market in hops. CONTENT: the regulation makes provision for aid to be granted to producers over a period of 5 years. This aid is justified by the low level of farmers' income in relation to the high production costs in this sector. The amendments in relation to present legislation may be summarized as follows: - simplification of the system by granting flat-rate annual aid of ECU 480 per hectare, valid for a period of 5 years, with no distinction between groups of varieties; - the possibility for members of recognized producer groups to market all or part of their produce themselves, where they are authorized to do so; - the possibility of withholding up to 20% of the aid to producers for special measures, including varietal conversion. This possibility becomes an obligation where producer groups do not market their members' whole production; - the possibility for a producer to be established in a different Member State from that of the group of which he is a member. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 5 August 1997. The Regulation will be applicable from 1 January 1997.