Basic information

1994/0107(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Market in wine: reform of the common organisation of the market COM **Subject** 3.10.06.08 Wine, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	FANTUZZI Giulio (PSE)	08/09/1994

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	DI PRIMA Pietro Antonio (FE)	07/09/1994

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	1858	1995-06-19
Agriculture and Fisheries	1816	1994-12-15
Agriculture and Fisheries	1901	1996-01-22
Agriculture and Fisheries	1940	1996-06-27
Agriculture and Fisheries	1847	1995-05-29

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/04/1994	Additional information		Summary
06/04/1994	Legislative proposal published	COM(1994)0117	Summary
21/07/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/12/1994	Debate in Council		
21/03/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
21/03/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0055/1995	
05/04/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary

29/05/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
19/06/1995	Debate in Council		
22/01/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
27/06/1996	Debate in Council		
17/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/12/1998	Additional information		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/0107(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 043 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 042
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/05813

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0055/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0004	21/03/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0156/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0096-0129	06/04/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1994)0117 OJ C 194 16.07.1994, p. 0001	06/04/1994	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0242/1994 OJ C 210 14.08.1995, p. 0057	16/11/1994	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0191/1995 OJ C 110 02.05.1995, p. 0030	22/02/1995	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Market in wine: reform of the common organisation of the market COM

1994/0107(CNS) - 22/01/1996

The President declared that he intended re-opening the debate on the reform of the common organisation of the market in wine, as proposed by the Commission in 1994 and already discussed on several occasions by the ministers. According to the President, the market situation had completely changed in the last few years, moving from a situation of significant surpluses to a state of relative balance, which had to be stabilised. There was also good reason to take account of the new situation following the conclusion of the GATT and to take steps to prevent the Community wine-producing sector from suffering unfair competition. Commissioner Fischler pointed out that the Commission was prepared to discuss possible amendments to its proposal in view of the new factual data and in consideration of the opinion expressed by Parliament. The Council entrusted the Special Committee on Agriculture with the task of analysing the market situation and examining the proposal in the light of this initiative from the Commission.

Market in wine: reform of the common organisation of the market COM

1994/0107(CNS) - 06/04/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

After voting on 178 amendments, the European Parliament gave its opinion on the reform of the market in wine, taking over the key points of the compromise proposed by its rapporteur, Mr Fantuzzi, and thus amending the Commission's draft. The EP's resolution: - clarified the elements to be taken into account when defining the Community reference quantity, constituting a target for gradually restoring the balance on the wine market (average historic production over the last ten years, with the exception of anomalous years; consumption patterns; import-export balance; development of new markets; processing to obtain other products; requirements of the industry making alcohol for food use); - pointed out that in order to meet the targets set for the adjustment period of five years with a view to restoring the balance on the market, it was important to: safeguard producers' incomes; safeguard the wine industry and regional wine production traditions; ensure the environmental and social protection of the less-favoured areas; - called for the regional reference targets to be updated each year on the basis of the regional adjustment programmes and the market outlets for regional wines; - called for the implementation of measures to meet the problems associated with the change of generations and the establishment of young farmers, such as the establishment of a regional planting rights fund; - called for a report to be submitted to the Council and the EP on the assessments at the end of the third year of execution of the regional programmes; - introduced a new article to ensure that the Community prohibited all imports of grape must from third countries; - introduced a new article on preventive and voluntary distillation of table wines and wines suitable for yielding table wines at the beginning of each wine year; - called for information for consumers promoting the cultural, historical and dietetic value of wine and encouraging the moderate consumption of wine; education aimed at young people; targeted market research in the new Member States of the Union; the establishment of a tax environment favourable to wine consumption in the Community countries; - called for the calculation of amounts for grubbing premiums to be modified; - called for the establishment of a "Community" vineyard register, rather than a "simplified" vineyard register as proposed by the Commission.

Market in wine: reform of the common organisation of the market COM

1994/0107(CNS) - 06/04/1994 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a regulation aimed to reform the common organisation of the market in wine. The fundamental objective of this reform was to bring wine-growing potential under control and restore balance on the wine market mainly by setting a Community target production, distributed among the Member States, which would each be allocated national reference productions that could eventually be regionalised. Each Member State or its wine-growing regions would then submit a programme on measures intended to ensure respect for the reference production. Each programme would contain four components: - cutting annual production by green cropping and other actions to reduce yields. This component would be cofinanced equally (50/50) by the Community and the Member States. For Objective 1 areas, the Community contribution would increase to 75%; - abandonment of areas under vines, accompanied by environment-friendly actions (reparcelling, soil protection). A premium of ECU 7 000/ha would be paid for a yield of 50 hl/ha, at one time, after grubbing had taken place; - in regions covered by the above aspect, maintenance of viticulture for ecological reasons (hills and steep slopes, ground particularly susceptible to erosion, fire risks, etc.). Replanting could be envisaged in line with demand. The financial envelope would be determined in each region, depending on the areas abandoned. For each hectare abandoned, a sum of ECU 3 000 would be provided, with Community funding accounting for 75% in Objective I regions and 50% elsewhere; - technical training and commercial exploitation of the region's viticultural products. The amounts paid would be financed equally between the Community and the Member States, except in Objective 1 regions where Community funding would account for 75%. The overall amount granted for implementation of this component would not exceed 5% of the total amount granted for a programme. The programmes would be required to produce specific results, which would be penalised in two ways: through the suspension of premium payments and the obligation to distil surpluses at very low cost. Moreover, controls would be stepped up, through the establishment of a simplified vineyard register that would make it possible to verify precisely the area under vines and through the significant increase in the staffing levels of the Community's specific inspection body and more precise specifications of the inspectors' duties. Finally, the

proposal contained a number of selective measures designed to improve quality and the balance between supply and demand: restrictive approach with regard to chaptalisation, ban on the system of aid for the use of concentrated must and rectified concentrated must to increase strength, measures to promote consumption.

Market in wine: reform of the common organisation of the market COM

1994/0107(CNS) - 29/05/1995

The Presidency announced that it would submit an advisory note at the next meeting with a view to the Council reaching an agreement on the reform of the wine sector.

Market in wine: reform of the common organisation of the market COM

1994/0107(CNS) - 22/02/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

While welcoming the Commission’s presentation of a proposal for a regulation on the reform of the common organisation of the market in wine, the ESC regretted that the Commission had not taken account of the ESC’s vital suggestions nor the trade associations’ strong objections to the Council’s communication of 22 July 1993. It called on the new European Commission to amend radically its proposal for a regulation. According to the ESC, the market guidance had to be made a central plank of the reform process. This meant turning away from a centrally-run market. Instead, the European wine industry should be encouraged to become more competitive with other drinks. Moreover, trade barriers such as discriminatory excise duties between drinks in some Member States should be avoided and better sales conditions created for producers and traders. The reform should give the EU’s regions more responsibility for quality and market policy, in accordance with subsidiarity. This would mean, at the same time, deregulation and cutting red tape to encourage economic self-reliance and initiative. This re-directing of European wine policy should, in the ESC’s view, be started at once and completed over a 10-year transitional period. To bring about a clear separation between market and social policy, the ESC suggested that the Commission’s proposed regional programmes be split up into market structural and socio-structural programmes. Adequate EU funds needed to be made available for this purpose. The ESC considered that additional cofinancing should be provided from national or regional coffers; on the other hand, market intervention should be funded exclusively by the EAGGF. The ESC called for a specific wine-growing promotion programme to help environmentally-friendly economic measures. It recommended that Community funds be made available to support the development of better marketing structures in producer areas. It also suggested that social programmes for agriculture be tailored to the special needs of wine-growing. A voluntary grubbing programme should be introduced during the transitional period so that vineyard capacity could be adjusted to market conditions. The ESC emphasised that when production conditions were laid down and oenological practices were authorised, account should be taken of the varying geographical, climatic and weather conditions within Europe ’s wine-growing regions. It therefore did not agree with the European Commission that the number of wine-growing zones could be reduced from seven to three or that there could be a levelling-out of natural minimum alcoholic strengths and oenological practices. Instead it advocated that consideration be given to the classification of wine-growing zones on the basis of objective criteria. As regards the problem of chaptalisation, the ESC noted that this practice was banned in the EU. It could be permitted only as a strictly exceptional measure for a limited period of time in certain wine-growing areas of the EU under conditions to be determined by the Council. In order to avoid distortions of competition between the various EU producer countries, the current aid for the use of concentrated must and rectified concentrate should be maintained as long as the use of sucrose for enrichment purposes was authorised. Appropriate labelling should inform consumers about the enrichment processes used. In addition, there should be two types of distillation: ‘preventive’, or voluntary distillation, to be carried out at the beginning of the marketing year and at an attractive price, and ‘compulsory’ distillation, where the price paid would be lower and based on the surplus quantities to be disposed of. Aid for private storage should be maintained at any event, as a linking measure between years where production was in surplus and those where yields were low. The ESC called for a comprehensive overall programme to promote the sale of wine products, which also provided for the removal of legal, economic and tax barriers. To this end, an ambitious research and market research programme should be drawn up. The ESC also advocated an information and educational programme about the advantages of a moderate level of wine consumption as part of a balanced diet, and about the dangers of misuse. It welcomed the Commission’s proposal to extend the ban on new plantings. However, the right to replanting and the transfer of replanting rights should be used without restriction so that the best land in wine-growing areas was planted out in accordance with a policy on quality. The classification of vine varieties should be standardised at EU level.