COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 April 1976

setting up the Advisory Committee on Social Questions affecting Farmers and the Members of their Families

(76/410/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas an Advisory Committee on Social Questions affecting Farmers was set up by the Commission Decision of 19 December 1963 (1), as amended by the Decision of 15 May 1970 (2);

Whereas it is considered desirable, as a result of the accession of new Member States to the Community, to alter the rules relating to the number and apportionment of seats on this committee;

Whereas, moreover, the text of the said Decision requires certain minor alterations and therefore in the interests of clarity a completely new version of the text should be produced and the said Decision should be repealed,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. There shall be attached to the Commission an Advisory Committee on Social Questions affecting Farmers and the Members of their Families (hereinafter called 'the committee').

2. The committee shall be composed of representatives of the following interests: farmers, paid agricultural workers and rural families.

Article 2

1. The committee may be consulted by the Commission on any social questions affecting farmers and members of their families working on the holding, all such questions being considered both in themselves and in relation to their repercussions on the agricultural population as a whole.

2. At the request of one of the interests referred to in Article 1 (2), the committee may on its own initiative and in regard to a matter within its terms of reference forward opinions and reports to the Commission.

Article 3

1. The committee shall consist of 30 members.

2. Seats on the committee shall be apportioned as follows:

— 21 to farmers' representatives, including four to representatives of young farmers,

— seven to representatives of paid agricultural workers,

— two to representatives of rural families.

Article 4

1. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Commission on proposals from the following organizations set up at Community level:

Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the EEC (COPA), European Federation of Agricultural Workers' Unions within the Community (EFA),

Committee of Family Organizations for the European Communities (COFACE).

For each seat to be filled, these bodies shall put forward the names of two candidates of different nationality.

2. The term of office for members of the committee shall be three years. Their appointments may be renewed. Members shall not be remunerated for their services.

After the expiry of the three years members of the committee shall remain in office until they are replaced or until their appointments are renewed.

A member's term of office may be terminated before the expiry of the three years by resignation or death.

It may also be terminated where the body which the member represents requests that he be replaced.

A person shall be appointed, in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1, to replace such member for the remainder of the term of office.

3. A list of the members of the committee shall be published by the Commission, for information purposes, in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

(1) OJ No 2, 10. 1. 1964, p. 25/64.
(2) OJ No L 121, 4. 6. 1970, p. 13.

Article 5

The committee shall, by a two-thirds majority of the members present, elect a chairman and two vice-chairmen for a period of three years.

The officers shall prepare and organize the work of the committee.

Article 6

At the request of any of the interests represented, the chairman may invite a person delegated by the interest concerned to be present at meetings of the committee. He may likewise on such request invite any person with special qualifications in any subject on the agenda to take part in an expert capacity in the deliberations of the committee. Experts shall take part in discussions only of those questions on account of which they were invited.

Article 7

The committee may set up working parties to assist it in carrying out its work.

Article 8

1. The committee shall be convened by the Commission and shall meet at the Commission headquarters. Meetings of the officers shall be convened by the chairman by arrangement with the Commission.

2. Representatives of the Commission departments concerned shall take part in meetings of the committee, its officers and working parties.

3. Secretarial services for the committee and its working parties shall be provided by the Commission.

Article 9

No vote shall be taken on the matters discussed by the committee.

The Commission may, when seeking the opinion of the committee, set a time limit within which such opinion must be given.

The views expressed by the various interests represented shall be included in a summary record forwarded to the Commission.

In the event of unanimous agreement being reached in the committee on the opinion to be given, the committee shall formulate joint conclusions and attach them to the summary record.

Article 10

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 214 of the Treaty, where the Commission informs them that the opinions requested or the question raised is on a matter of a confidential nature, members of the committee shall be under an obligation not to disclose information which has come to their knowledge through the work of the committee or of its working parties.

In such cases, only committee members and representatives of the Commission departments concerned may be present at the meetings.

Article 11

The Commission Decision of 19 December 1963, as amended by the Decision of 15 May 1970, is hereby repealed.

Article 12

This Decision shall enter into force on 20 April 1976.

Done at Brussels, 20 April 1976.

For the Commission

P. J. LARDINOIS

Member of the Commission