COMMISSION DECISION

of 7 January 1987

on the setting-up of an Advisory Committee on Flax and Hemp

(87/90/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Flax and Hemp was set up by Commission Decision 71/32/EEC (1), as last amended by Decision 83/77/EEC (2);

Whereas, following the accession of new Member States to the Community, the number of seats on the Committee should be increased and they should be reallocated; whereas the procedure for the replacement of members should also be adjusted;

Whereas the provisions concerning the Advisory Committee on Flax and Hemp have been amended several times and have therefore become difficult to apply; whereas they should therefore be consolidated;

Whereas the Commission should seek the views of producers, traders and consumers on matters arising in connection with the operation of the common organization of the market in flax and hemp;

Whereas all the occupations directly involved in the implementation of the market organization in question, and also consumers, must have an opportunity to participate in the drafting of the opinions requested by the Commission;

Whereas the trade associations concerned and the consumer groups in the Member States have set up organizations at Community level which are in a position to represent those concerned in all the Member States,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. There shall be attached to the Commission an Advisory Committee on Flax and Hemp, hereinafter called the 'Committee'.

2. The Committee shall be composed of representatives of the following interests: growers, cooperatives, the flax and hemp industry, traders, workers in the relevant agricultural and industrial sectors and consumers.

(1) OJ No L 14, 18. 1. 1971, p. 11.
(2) OJ No L 51, 24. 2. 1983, p. 34.

Article 2

1. The Committee may be consulted by the Commission on any problem concerning the operation of Regulations on the common organization of the market in flax and hemp and in particular on measures to be adopted under those Regulations.

2. The chairman of the Committee may indicate to the Commission the desirability of consulting the Committee on any matter within the latter's competence on which its opinion has not been sought. He shall do so, in particular, at the request of one of the interests represented.

3. In respect of problems relating to the provisions referred to in Article 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1308/70 (1) the Commission may, acting through the joint working party provided for in Article 5 of this Decision, consult only the representatives of flax and hemp growers and the representatives of the flax retting and scutching industries and the hemp-using industries.

Article 3

1. The Committee shall consist of 40 members.

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

— 20 to agricultural producers and cooperatives in the sector,

— four to representatives of the retting and scutching industry,

— six to representatives of the flax- and hemp-using industries, of whom:
  — three shall represent the flax and hemp spinning industry,
  — one shall present the flax-using industries other than the spinning industry,
  — one shall represent the hemp-using industries other than the spinning industry,
  — one shall represent the linseed oil industry,

— two to a representative of the flax and hemp trade,

— four to representatives of agricultural and industrial workers in this sector,

— four to consumers' representatives.

Article 4

1. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Commission on proposals from the trade workers'

(1) OJ No L 146, 4. 7. 1970, p. 1.

organizations set up at Community level which are most representative of the interests specified in Article 1 (2) and whose activities come within the scope of the common organization of the market in flax and hemp; consumers' representatives shall be appointed on proposals from the Consumers' Advisory Committee.

Those bodies shall for each seat to be filled 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 expiry of the three years members of the Committee shall remain in office until they are replaced or until their appointments are renewed.

In the event of the resignation or decease of a member or a request from the body having proposed a member that he be replaced, he shall be replaced in accordance with the the procedure laid down in paragraph 1.

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*.

Article 5

1. There shall be set up under the auspices of the Committee a joint working party consisting of five growers' representatives and five representatives of the flax and hemp industry, appointed by the Commission on proposals from the trade organizations concerned in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4.

Members of the working party need not be members of the Committee.

2. Seats on the joint working party shall be apportioned as follows:

(a) three to flax growers' representatives;
three to representatives of the flax retting and scutching industries;

(b) two hemp growers' representatives;
two to representatives of the hemp-using industries.

The respective representatives of the flax sector and the hemp sector may hold separate meetings.

3. In the event of a member of the joint working party being unable to attend a meeting, and in this event only, another person may attend in his stead. The trade organization which proposed the absent member may propose a substitute for him to the chairman.

4. The chairman of the joint working party may indicate to the Commission the desirability of consulting the working party on any matter within Article 2 (3) on which it has not been consulted. He shall do so, in particular, at the request of either of the two sides represented on the working party.

Article 6

1. After consulting the Commission, the Committee shall elect a chairman for a period of three years.

The chairman shall be elected, in the case of the first ballot, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and, in the case of subsequent ballots, by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the Commission shall provide a chairman on a temporary basis.

2. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairmen for a period of three years. The vice-chairmen may not represent the same interest as the chairman.

The election shall take place in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1.

The Committee may, in accordance with the same procedure, elect other officers. In that case, the officers other than the chairman shall include not more than one representative of each interest represented on the Committee.

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

3. The joint working party shall elect from among its members a chairman and a vice-chairman for a period of one year. The election shall take place in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1.

The vice-chairman may not represent the same interest as the chairman. They shall be chosen alternately from among the two interests represented.

Article 7

1. Only the Commission representatives, the members of the Committees or persons replacing them in their absence, and persons invited in accordance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 may participate in or attend meetings.

2. Only the Commission representatives, the members of the joint working party or persons replacing them in their absence, the chairman of the Committee and persons invited in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 7 may participate in or attend meetings of the joint working party.

3. Should a Committee member be unable to attend a meeting, the organization or organizations to which a seat is allocated may appoint a person to take his place. This person shall be selected from a list drawn up by mutual agreement between the Commission and the organization or organizations in question and containing a number of names equal to half the total number of members representing the organization or organizations in question.

This number shall be not less than one and not more than 12.

The secretariat of the Committee must be informed of such replacement of a member at least seven days before a meeting.

4. At the request of an organization to which one or more seats are allocated, the chairman may, in agreement with the Commission staff, invite its general secretary or a member of its secretariat to attend the meetings of the Committee as an observer.

Should he be unable to attend, however, the general secretary may have his seat as an observer taken by another person designated by him.

5. At the request of an organization to which one or more seats are allocated in the joint working party, the chairman of the joint working party may invite its general secretary or a member of its secretariat to attend the meetings of the joint working party as an observer.

Should he be unable to attend, however, the general secretary may have his seat as an observer taken by another person designated by him.

6. Observers shall not have the right to speak. They may, however, be invited to do so by the chairman in agreement with the Commission staff.

7. At the request of an organization to which one or more seats are allocated, and when the matters on the agenda are of a highly technical nature outside the normal framework of the deliberations of the Committee or joint working party the chairman may, in agreement with the Commission staff, invite one or more experts to take part in the deliberations of the Committee or joint working party.

The Commission may, on its own initiative, invite any person particularly well qualified in one of the subjects on the agenda to take part in the deliberations of the Committee or joint working party as an expert.

However, experts shall participate only in the discussion of the matter concerning which they were invited to attend.

Article 8

In agreement with the Commission staff, the Committee or joint working party may set up working groups to facilitate its work.

Article 9

1. The Committee and the joint working party shall be convened by the Commission and shall meet at 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, the joint working party and its working groups.

3. Secretarial services for the Committee, its officers, the joint working party and the working groups shall be provided by the Commission.

Article 10

The Committee shall discuss matters on which the Commission has requested an opinion. No vote shall be taken.

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

The views expressed by the various interests represented shall be included in a report 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 report.

The outcome of the Committee's discussions shall, on request, be communicated by the Commission to the Council and to the Management Committee.

Article 11

The chairman of the joint working party shall report to the Committee on the work of the working party.

Article 12

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 214 of the Treaty, where the Commission informs them that the opinion requested or the question raised is on a matter of a confidential nature, members of the Committee and members of the joint working party, or those attending in their stead pursuant to Article 5 (3), shall be under an obligation not to disclose information which has come to their knowledge through the work of the Committee, the joint working party or the working groups.

In such cases, only members of the Committee, members of the joint working party, and those attending in their stead as mentioned above and representatives of the Commission departments concerned may be present at meetings.

Article 13

Commission Decision 71/32/EEC is hereby repealed.

Article 14

This Decision shall enter into force on 1 January 1987.

Done at Brussels, 7 January 1987.

For the Commission
Frans ANDRIESSEN
Vice-President