II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 12 November 1996

authorizing Italy to continue trials on a new oenological practice

(Only the Italian text is authentic)

(96/657/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 of 16 March 1987 on the common organization of the market in wine [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1592/96 [2], and in particular Article 26 (3) thereof,

Whereas Italy has authorized experimental trials involving the use of lysozyme to limit the use of sulphur dioxide in wine-making and whereas it has forwarded the results of the trials in respect of the 1993/94, 1994/95 and 1995/96 wine years; whereas the results of the trials, which have been covered by reports forwarded to the Commission, have been very promising but remain incomplete;

Whereas the other Member States have been informed of the results of the trials;

Whereas Italy has requested the Commission for authorization to extend those trials for three additional wine years, namely 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99; whereas the trials will cover the monitoring of malo-lactic fermentation of red wine, bottle fermentation of sparkling wine and ageing of wine;

Whereas the trials must involve vinification of the 1996 grape harvest;

Whereas this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Wine,

[1] OJ No L 84, 27. 3. 1987, p. 1.
[2] OJ No L 206, 16. 8. 1996, p. 31.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Italy is hereby authorized to continue trials relating to the use of lysozyme in wine-making until 31 August 1999 and involving a maximum of 50 000 hectolitres during each of the 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99 wine years under the conditions laid down in Article 26 of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Italian Republic.

Done at Brussels, 12 November 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission