COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 3 December 1997

approving an amendment to the additional varietal conversion programme for hops submitted by Belgium pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2997/87

(Only the Dutch and French texts are authentic)

(97/834/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2997/87 of 22 September 1987 laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1986 harvest and providing for special measures for certain regions of production [1], as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 423/95 [2], and in particular Article 2 (5) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3889/87 of 22 December 1987 laying down detailed rules for the application of the special measures for certain regions of hops production [3], as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 718/93 [4], and in particular Article 3 thereof,

Whereas, pursuant to Article 2 (5) of Regulation (EEC) No 2997/87, Belgium transmitted to the Commission on 10 March 1988 a varietal conversion programme for hops; whereas the programme as amended on 26 July 1988 was approved by Commission Decision 88/606/EEC [5]; whereas, after having been amended three times by Decisions 89/480/EEC [6], 91/94/EEC [7] and 92/149/EEC [8], the programme was closed on 31 December 1992;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 1 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 3889/87, Belgium forwarded to the Commission on 29 December 1992 an additional varietal conversion programme which is different from the previous one in that it includes a new, recently recognized producer group, covers new areas and is more directly oriented to super-alpha varieties better adapted to market requirements; whereas the additional programme was approved by Commission Decision 93/251/EEC [9];

Whereas on 21 December 1993 Belgium submitted amendments to the additional programme to the Commission;

Whereas the amendments proposed involve mainly increasing yet more the proportion of super-alpha varieties within the range of varieties being planted under the conversion plan and to expanding the areas covered by conversion; whereas the amended programme was approved by Commission Decision 94/144/EC [10];

Whereas on 23 July 1997 Belgium submitted further amendments to that programme to the Commission;

Whereas the amendments proposed concern the transfer — between producer groups which are members of the same association — of areas eligible for varietal conversion, the total area envisaged for Belgium remaining unchanged;

Whereas the additional programme as amended satisfies the objectives of the Regulation in question and contains the information required pursuant to Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 3889/87;

[1] OJ L 284, 7. 10. 1987, p. 19.
[2] OJ L 45, 1. 3. 1995, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 365, 24. 12. 1987, p. 41.
[4] OJ L 74, 27. 3. 1993, p. 46.
[5] OJ L 334, 6. 12. 1988, p. 26.
[6] OJ L 234, 11. 8. 1989, p. 52.
[7] OJ L 50, 23. 2. 1991, p. 28.
[8] OJ L 61, 6. 3. 1992, p. 31.
[9] OJ L 115, 11. 5. 1993, p. 28.
[10] OJ L 62, 5. 3. 1994, p. 44.

Whereas the special aid for varietal conversion may also be granted for areas under other varieties where the latter are present on areas essentially under bitter varieties covered by a conversion plan;

Whereas the financial contribution chargeable to the national budget complies with the ceiling set out in Article 2 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2997/87; whereas the actual costs referred to in Article 2 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2997/87 may include estimates of the net loss of income resulting from the implementation of a conversion plan; whereas, however, only those estimates which relate to the net loss of income suffered from the date of adoption of Regulation (EEC) No 2997/87 may figure in the calculation of the actual costs; whereas the Member State's financial contribution to the varietal conversion programme should be adjusted accordingly;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Hops,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The varietal conversion programme for hops, submitted pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 2997/87 by Belgium on 23 July 1997, is hereby approved. The main aspects of the programme are given in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Done at Brussels, 3 December 1997.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

1. **List of producer groups covered by the programme**

— Pacohop SV,

— De Poperingse Hopproducenten Vereniging,

— De Nieuwe Hoptelersbelangengroep (NHBG).

The first two groups are represented by Febelhop (association of producer groups).

2. **Duration of programme**

From 1993 to 1996. The last plantings must be carried out before 31 December 1996.

3. **Areas covered by the programme**

Pacohop SV:		20,2829 ha
De Poperingse Hopproducenten Vereniging:		84,0994 ha
De Nieuwe Hoptelersbelangengroep:		40,6115 ha
	Total	145,3974 ha

4. **Varieties to be planted and areas concerned**

Aromatic varieties

Hallertauer Mittelfrühe		0,1104 ha
Goldings		1,4034 ha
Challenger		12,7461 ha
Fuggles		0,6404 ha
WGV		0,2156 ha
	Total	15,1159 ha

Super-alpha varieties

Yeoman		0,5532 ha
Target		110,8867 ha
Nugget		3,0419 ha
Hallertauer Magnum		15,7997 ha
	Total	130,2815 ha