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REGULATION (EEC) No 959/70 OF THE COUNCIL

of 26 May 1970

authorising the coupage of German red wines with imported red wines

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 816/70[1] of 28 April 1970 laying down additional provisions for the common organisation of the market in wine, and in particular Article 26 (4) thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Whereas Article 26 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 prohibits the coupage of an imported wine with a Community wine, except by way of derogation to be decided by the Council;

Whereas, to remain competitive, German red wines, pale in colour, must be subjected to coupage with imported red wines;

Whereas this practice must be subject to strict rules to prevent abuse;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. German red wines may be subjected to coupage with red wines from third countries.

2. The proportion of imported red wines for coupage shall not exceed 15% of the volume of the German wine used.

3. Only imported red wines having the following characteristics may be used for coupage:

(a) a total alcoholic strength of not less than 120 but not more than 150; and

(b) a dry extract content without sugar of not less than 28 grammes per litre but not more than 35 grammes per litre.

Article 2

The provisions of Article 1 shall be applicable for a transitional period which shall end not later than 30 June 1979.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 June 1970.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 26 May 1970.

For the Council

The President

Ch. HEGER

[1] OJ No L 99, 5.5.1970, p. 1.