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(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

REGULATION (EEC) No 2592/73 OF THE COUNCIL

of 24 September 1973

supplementing Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 as regards the total maximum content of sulphur dioxide (SO_2) in wines other than sparkling wines and liqueur wines intended for direct human consumption in the Community

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof ;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament ;

Whereas it is necessary to restrict, in the preparation of wines, the use of sulphur dioxide which is indispensable in the present state of oenological knowledge during certain stages of wine production as well as in the conservation of wines ;

Whereas, however, in order to take account, in the initial stage, of the diversification of Community wine production, it appears necessary to provide for a transitional period of adaptation taking into consideration what has already been achieved as well as the efforts that have been made in this respect by certain Member States in order to reduce levels of sulphur dioxide, in particular for reasons of public health ;

Whereas, therefore, it is necessary during this transitional period to fix appropriate levels for the different wines intended for direct human consumption, whether produced within the Community or imported from third countries,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 shall be supplemented by the following Article :

'Article 26a

1. Without prejudice to the more restrictive provisions that may be applied by Member States for wines produced within their territory, the total sulphur dioxide content for wines intended for direct human consumption other than sparkling wines and liqueur wines, shall not exceed :

(a) 200 mg/l for red wines,

(b) 250 mg/l for white wines.

However, for a period ending on 31 August 1976 and for wines produced in Community wine-growing zones in which contents higher than those referred to in the first subparagraph are allowed on 1 October 1973, the maximum sulphur dioxide content :

(a) shall be raised to 300 mg/l for white wines and 250 mg/l for red wines where these wines have a residual sugar content, expressed as invert sugar, equal to or greater than 5 g/l,

(b) may be raised to 400 mg/l for certain white quality wines psr having special characteristics of production and preparation.

The maximum content referred to in the second subparagraph (b) may be allowed up to 31 August 1976 also for certain imported white quality wines having special characteristics of production and preparation.

2. The Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, in accordance with the voting procedure laid down in Article 43 (2) of the Treaty, may prolong before 30 June 1976 the period referred to in the second and third subparagraphs of paragraph 1, while taking account of the need to reduce in progressive stages the maximum sulphur dioxide contents referred to in these subparagraphs. These reductions shall be decided in accordance with the same procedure.

3. In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7 of Regulation No 24, detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted, in particular :

(a) the list of quality wines psr referred to in paragraph 1, second subparagraph (b) ;

(b) the list of quality wines referred to in paragraph 1 last subparagraph ;

(c) the transitional measures for wines produced before 1 October 1973',

Article 2

Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 1599/71 shall be repealed.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 October 1973.

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

Done at Brussels, 24 September 1973.

For the Council

The President

Ib FREDERIKSEN