COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 232/77

of 2 February 1977

derogating from the dates laid down for acidification in respect of products of the 1976 wine harvest in the Italian regions of Zones C II and C III

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 of 28 April 1970 laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine [1], as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2842/76 [2], and in particular Article 22 (3) thereof,

Whereas, owing to the exceptional climatic conditions of the summer of 1976, the state of maturity of the 1976 harvest in Italy has made for delayed and abnormally prolonged malo-lactic fermentation with the result that the lower acidity of the products obtained was not noticed in time ; whereas to enable this difficulty to be overcome, the period of acidification should, in implementation of Article 22 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70, be extended to 15 May 1977 ;

Whereas an extension of the period initially laid down requires special control measures ; whereas such extension should consequently be allowed after 31 December 1976 only in establishments in which the products concerned have been obtained ; whereas, moreover, to make control more effective, notification by those concerned should be made before instead of after acidification, as laid down in Article 5 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1594/70 of 5 August 1970 on the notification, carrying out and control of the processes of enriching, acidifying and deacidifying wine [3] ;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Wine,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

1. Grape must in fermentation and new wine still in fermentation from the 1976 harvest which were obtained from the Italian regions of Zones C II and C III, may be subjected to acidification until 15 May 1977 in those establishments where the grapes and grape musts are being turned into wine.

2. By way of derogation from the second subparagraph of Article 5 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1594/70, the person concerned must notify the competent authority in writing before the acidification process begins.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 1977.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Vice-President

(1) OJ No L 99, 5. 5. 1970, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 327, 26. 11. 1976, p. 2.
(3) OJ No L 173, 6. 8. 1970, p. 23.