COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 503/78

of 9 March 1978

amending Regulation No 785/67/EEC on the buying-in of olive oil by intervention agencies

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation No 136/66/EEC of 22 September 1966 on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats (1), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2560/77 (2), and in particular Article 11 (5) thereof,

Whereas in certain regions of the Community it has been noted that virgin olive oil, extra, of 0·6° or less acidity is being sent into intervention ; whereas at the same time the market prices of that quality of olive oil are at the level of the market target prices ;

Whereas, according to certain information, the oil sent into intervention in certain cases may not be oil which has naturally the characteristics of virgin olive oil, extra, of 0·6° acidity ;

Whereas the Annex to Regulation No 785/67/EEC on the buying-in of olive oil by intervention agencies (3), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2374/77 (4), provides for different increases in the buying-in price of virgin olive oil, extra, offered for intervention, according to its degree of acidity ; whereas the substantial difference between the price increase applicable to virgin olive oil, extra, of 0·6° acidity and that applicable to virgin olive oil, extra, of a higher degree of acidity is an incentive to manipulate the oils offered for intervention ;

Whereas it does not appear possible with the present method of analysis to guarantee in all cases the quality of the oil offered for intervention ; whereas, pending the elaboration of an adequate method of analysis, provision should be made for interim protective measures to avoid the risk of fraudulent operations ; whereas the advantage of offering virgin olive oil, extra, of 0·6° acidity for intervention should be provisionally reduced by altering the price increase applicable to such oil ;

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

By way of derogation from the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 785/67/EEC, the price increase contained therein for virgin olive oil, extra, of more than 0·6° up to and including 1° of acidity shall apply also to virgin olive oil, extra, of 0·6° or less acidity up to and including 15 May 1978.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of 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, 9 March 1978.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Vice-President

(1) OJ No 172, 30. 9. 1966, p. 3025/66.
(2) OJ No L 303, 28. 11. 1977, p. 1.
(3) OJ No 264, 31. 10. 1967, p. 11.
(4) OJ No L 277, 29. 10. 1977, p. 27.