COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 288/93

of 9 February 1993

laying down a transitional measure relating to coupage of table wine in Spain for 1993

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal [1], and in particular Article 90 thereof, whose period of validity has been extended to 31 December 1993 by Council Regulation (EEC) No 4007/87 [2], as last amended by Reulation (EEC) No 3876/92 [3],

Whereas Article 16 (5) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 of 16 March 1987 on the common organization of the market in wine [4], as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1756/92 [5], prohibits coupage of a white table wine with a red table wine; whereas the abovementioned practice forms part of the arrangements in force in Spain and whereas Article 125 of the Act of Accession authorizes it until 31 December 1989, and Regulation (EEC) No 761/92 [6] confirms this authorization until 31 December 1992;

Whereas the conditions for the abandonment of this practice are not yet ripe in that country as they are related to the structure of wine-growing and consumers' attitudes, which change relatively slowly; whereas the abandonment of the abovementioned practice would result in the immediate future in a serious imbalance on the market generating a shortage of red wine and a substantial surplus of white wine, which would require major intervention operations; whereas the need to avoid very serious disturbance of the market justifies the adoption of a transitional measure;

Whereas, so that the possibility of carrying out coupage involving white table wine and red table wine remains limited to the country where it is necessary, care must be taken to ensure that wine obtained from this practice may not be mixed with other Community wines;

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Until 31 December 1993, coupage of a wine suitable for yielding a white table wine or of a white table wine with a wine suitable for yielding a red table wine or with a red table wine shall be permitted on Spanish territory provided that the product obtained has the characteristics of a red table wine and that the percentage of red wine used is not less than 65 %.

2. Until the date in paragraph 1, coupage in the Community as constituted at 31 December 1985 of Spanish wine other than white table wine with wine from other Member States shall be prohibited.

3. Spanish red and rosé table wines may only be the subject of trade with the other Member States or be exported to third countries if they are not obtained from coupage as referred to in paragraph 1.

4. For the purposes of applying paragraph 3, each competent authority designated by Spain shall guarantee until 30 June 1994 the origin of Spanish red and rosé table wine by affixing a stamp preceded by the words 'wine not obtained from white/red coupage' in the box reserved for official remarks on document provided for in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 986/89 [7].

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 January 1993.

[1] OJ No L 302, 15. 11. 1985, p. 9.
[2] OJ No L 378, 31. 12. 1987, p. 1.
[3] OJ No L 391, 31. 12. 1992, p. 2.
[4] OJ No L 84, 27. 3. 1987, p. 1.
[5] OJ No L 180, 1. 7. 1992, p. 27.
[6] OJ No L 83, 28. 3. 1992, p. 13.
[7] OJ No L 106, 18. 4. 1989, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 9 February 1993.

For the Commission

René STEICHEN

Member of the Commission