COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2178/96

of 13 November 1996

fixing the prices and rates of the aid for preventive distillation referred to in Article 38 of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 in Austria for the 1996/97 wine year

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular Article 149 (1) thereof,

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 of 16 March 1987 on the common organization of the market in wine [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1592/96 [2], lays down the basic rules for the management of the market in that sector; whereas, in particular, Article 1 (6) thereof lays down that the wine year lasts from 1 September to 31 August;

Whereas, by virtue of the abovementioned Act of Accession, the common organization of the market in wine has applied in Austria since the moment of accession; whereas, however, the Commission, by Regulation (EC) No 1649/96 of 16 August 1996 on transitional measures applicable in Austria in the wine-growing sector [3], fixed the specific market management measures for the 1996/97 wine year, in particular concerning exemptions from the distillation measures referred to in Articles 35 and 39 of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87; whereas that Regulation provides that, for preventive distillation, the Commission must, in establishing the quantities of wine concerned, the prices and aids in Austria, take account of the impact of that exemption on producers' incomes in that Member State;

Whereas it is currently impossible to know whether compulsory distillation will take place; whereas, therefore, the prices should be fixed at 80 % of the amounts provided for in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1650/96 [4], the aids should also be adjusted and at the same time a mechanism should be provided which will rule out any discriminatory treatment in the event that there is no compulsory distillation;

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

By derogation from Regulation (EC) No 1650/96, the prices and aids relating to the distillation provided for in Article 38 of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 for Austria for the 1996/97 wine year shall be those included in the Annex hereto.

However, if there is no compulsory distillation for the 1996/97 wine year:

— the intervention agency shall pay to the distiller before 30 May 1997 the difference between the Community aids and the aids for Austria for the quantities delivered,

— the distiller shall pay to the producer the difference between the Community prices and the prices for Austria for the quantities delivered before the above date.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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, 13 November 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ No L 84, 27. 3. 1987, p. 1.
[2] OJ No L 206, 16. 8. 1996, p. 31.
[3] OJ No L 207, 17. 8. 1996, p. 8.
[4] OJ No L 207, 17. 8. 1996, p. 10.

ANNEX

DISTILLATION AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 38 OF REGULATION (EEC) No 822/87

1996/97 WINE YEAR

(ECU/% vol/hl)

1. Buying-in price to be paid to the producer by the distiller:	
— type A I, R I and R II (1)	1,990
— type A II	4,308
— type A III	4,917
— type R III	3,082
2. Aid:	
(a) for distillation:	
1. neutral spirits:	
— type A I, R I and R II	1,387
— type A II	3,741
— type A III	4,374
— type R III	2,502
2. spirits distilled from wine and raw spirits:	
— type A I, R I and R II	1,254
— type A II	3,608
— type A III	4,241
— type R III	2,370
(b) for the fortification of wine for distillation:	
— type A I, R I and R II	1,218
— type A II	3,536
— type A III	4,144
— type R III	2,309

(1) And table wine in a close economic relationship with these types of table wine, or wines suitable for yielding table wine.