COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1311/97

of 8 July 1997

amending for the third time Regulation (EC) No 2177/96 introducing preventive distillation as provided for in Article 38 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 for the 1996/97 wine year

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to 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 536/97 [2], and in particular Article 38 (5) thereof,

Whereas the administrative authorities in some wine-growing regions have been facing insurmountable difficulties in meeting the time limits for approving the distillation contracts and declarations indicated in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2177/96 [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 814/97 [4]; whereas, for that reason, the time limit for approval of contracts and that for notification to the Commission of the volumes of wine under contract should be put back to 5 June 1997 and 15 June 1997 respectively;

Whereas distilleries in some wine-growing regions are facing insurmountable difficulties in meeting the time limits laid down in Article 2 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 2177/96 for the delivery of wine; whereas, for that reason, the time limit for delivery of the wine should be put back to 31 July 1997;

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

Regulation (EC) No 2177/96 is hereby amended as follows:

1. in Article 1b (3), '16 May 1997' is replaced by '5 June 1997' and '23 May 1997' is replaced by '15 June 1997';

2. in Article 2 (2), '15 June 1997' is replaced by '31 July 1997'.

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, 8 July 1997.

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 83, 25. 3. 1997, p. 5.
[3] OJ No L 291, 14. 11. 1996, p. 17.
[4] OJ No L 116, 6. 5. 1997, p. 21.