COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 133/98

of 20 January 1998

derogating, for the 1997/98 wine year, from Regulation (EC) No 3112/93 laying down detailed rules for the application of the specific aid arrangements for the smaller Aegean islands in respect of vineyards and the private storage of liqueur wines

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93 of 19 July 1993 introducing specific measures for the smaller Aegean islands concerning certain agricultural products [1], as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2417/95 [2], and in particular Article 9(4) thereof,

Whereas Article 9(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93 lays down that the aid per hectare for the continued cultivation of vines for the production of quality wines psr in traditional wine-growing zones is, with effect from the 1997/98 wine year, to be granted exclusively to producer groups or organisations initiating a measure to improve the quality of the wines produced in accordance with a programme approved by the competent authorities; whereas, for the 1997/98 wine year, the time limit laid down in Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 3112/93 [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2537/95 [4], for the lodging of the above aid application should be deferred from 1 May 1997 to 31 December 1997 in view of the difficulties encountered by producer organisations in preparing and submitting the above programme of measures to improve the quality of the wines in question;

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

Notwithstanding Article 2(1) of Regulation (EC) No 3112/93, for the 1997/98 wine year the application for per-hectare aid may be lodged with the competent authority by producer groups or organisations no later than 31 December 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, 20 January 1998.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ L 184, 27. 7. 1993, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 248, 14. 10. 1995, p. 39.
[3] OJ L 278, 11. 11. 1993, p. 52.
[4] OJ L 260, 31. 10. 1995, p. 10.