COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 699/2002

of 24 April 2002

amending Regulation (EC) No 1608/2000 laying down transitional measures pending the definitive measures implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2585/2001 [2], and in particular Article 80 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1608/2000 of 24 July 2000 laying down transitional measures pending the definitive measures implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 363/2002 [4], extends the applicability of certain Council provisions repealed by Article 81 of Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 until 30 April 2002, pending the finalisation and adoption of measures implementing that Regulation. The finalisation and adoption of those implementing measures will not be completed by 30 April 2002. Certain Council provisions repealed by Article 81 of Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 should accordingly be allowed to stand for a short additional period.

(2) The extra transitional period does not affect the implementation of the bulk of the reform of the common organisation of the market in wine on the date set by the Council since the main points concerning the areas covered by those Regulations have been settled in Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 or in the implementing regulations already adopted.

(3) Less progress has been made in adopting implementing measures in certain areas than in others, for example regarding the description, designation, presentation and protection of certain wine products, because of the complexity and sensitivity of the issues the Council has to deal with and the direct impact of any measures adopted on operators in the Community and in non-member countries. Provision should therefore be made for an extra transitional period in order to allow for the final adoption of those measures.

(4) 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 1608/2000 is amended as follows:

1. In Article 1, the date '30 April 2002' is replaced by '31 May 2002'.
2. In Article 3, the date '30 April 2002' is replaced by '31 May 2002'.
3. In part B of the Annex, the date '30 April 2002' is replaced by '31 May 2002'.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 May 2002.

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

Done at Brussels, 24 April 2002.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 179, 14.7.1999, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 345, 29.12.2001, p. 10.
[3] OJ L 185, 25.7.2000, p. 24.
[4] OJ L 58, 28.2.2002, p. 7.