

Commission Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 of 27 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 on the common organisation of the market in wine as regards support programmes, trade with third countries, production potential and on controls in the wine sector

TITLE I

INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Article 1

Scope and use of terms

1 This Regulation lays down implementing rules concerning the application of the following provisions of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008:

- a support measures (Title II);
- b trade with third countries (Title IV);
- c production potential (Title V);
- d inventory as foreseen in Article 109;
- e controls in the wine sector (Article 117); and
- f measurement of areas as foreseen in Article 121(c).

This Regulation shall not affect the application of:

- a specific provisions governing relations between Member States in combating fraud in the wine sector in so far as they are such as to facilitate the application of this Regulation;
- b rules relating to:
 - (i) criminal proceedings or mutual assistance among Member States at judicial level in criminal matters;
 - (ii) the administrative penalties procedure.

2 Terms used in Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall have the same meaning when used in this Regulation.

TITLE II

SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

CHAPTER I

Procedure for submission

Article 2

First submission of support programmes

1 The submission of the draft support programme referred to in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall refer to the five financial years 2009 to 2013.

Member States shall make available to the Commission by electronic means their draft support programme using the template set out in Annex I to this Regulation.

Member States shall submit similarly their financial planning for the draft support programme referred to in paragraph 1 to the Commission in the form set out in Annex II.

2 Member States shall notify the Commission their legislation related to the draft support programmes referred to in the first subparagraph once adopted or modified.

3 Member States deciding to transfer all the amount of their national envelope from the 2010 financial year onwards and for all the period as referred to in Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 into the Single Payment Scheme shall submit the form provided for in Annex II of this Regulation, duly completed in the corresponding line and once for all before the 30 June 2008.

4 Member States deciding to set up their support programme including regional particularities may also submit details by region in the form set out in Annex III to this Regulation.

5 Member States shall bear the responsibility for expenditure between the date on which their support programme is received by the Commission and the date of its applicability according to Article 5(2) first subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

Article 3

Modifications of support programmes

1 Revised programmes referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be submitted to the Commission in the form set out in Annex I to this Regulation including, where applicable, the revised financial planning in the form set out in Annex IV to this Regulation.

Member States referred to in Article 5(4) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 need not submit the form set out in Annex IV.

Member States shall bear the responsibility for expenditure between the date on which their support programme revision is received by the Commission and the date of its

applicability according to Article 5(2) second subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

2 Except in cases of emergency measures due to natural disasters, changes in respect of support programmes shall not be submitted more than twice per financial year. If a Member State finds it necessary to modify its support programme, it shall submit it by 1 March and by 30 June of each year at the latest with, where appropriate:

- a updated versions of the support programme in the form set out in Annex I and of the financial table in the form set out in Annex IV;
- b the reasons for the proposed changes.

Any transfer concerning the measure as referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be notified before 1 December preceding the calendar year in which the Single Payment Scheme will be applicable.

CHAPTER II

Eligible measures

Section 1

Promotion on third-country markets

Article 4

Eligible operations and markets

Wines referred to in Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be eligible for promotion on third-country markets provided that:

- (a) the products are intended for direct consumption, export opportunities or potential new market outlets in the targeted third countries exist for them, and they display high added value;
- (b) the origin of the product is indicated as part of an information or promotion operation in the case of wine with a geographical indication;
- (c) the operation supported is clearly defined, including the specification of which products may be taken into account, the marketing operation and the estimated cost;
- (d) the support for promotion and information lasts no longer than three years for a given beneficiary in a given third-country;
- (e) the information and/or promotion messages are based on the intrinsic qualities of the wine, and comply with the legislation applicable in the third countries at which they are targeted;
- (f) The beneficiaries must have enough capacity to face the specific constraints of trade with third countries and have resources to ensure that the measure is implemented as effectively as possible. Member States shall in particular check that enough products in terms of quality and quantity will be available to ensure answering the market demand in the long run after the promotion operation.

The beneficiaries may be private companies as well as professional organisations, producer organisations, inter-branch organisations or, where a Member State decides so, to public bodies. In any event, Member States shall not make a public body the sole beneficiary of the promotion measure.

Preference shall be given to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the meaning of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC⁽¹⁾, and to collective brand names.

In order to prevent misuse of the scheme, the elements referred to in paragraphs (a) and (c) shall not in general be permitted to change within the duration of the supported actions unless evidence shows that such changes allow for a better accomplishment.

Article 5

Selection procedure

1 Member States shall lay down the application procedure, which shall in particular provide detailed rules on:

- a verification of the compliance with the requirements and criteria set out in Article 4;
- b deadlines for presentation of applications and for examination of the suitability of each proposed action;
- c the products concerned and their marketing in conformity with the provisions of this Regulation, the national provisions and the relevant specification;
- d conclusion of contracts, including possible standard forms, provision of securities and arrangements for the payment of advances;
- e evaluating any given supported action.

2 The Member States shall select the application in particular against the following criteria:

- a consistency between the strategies proposed and the objectives set;
- b the quality of the proposed measures;
- c their likely impact and success in increasing demand for the products concerned;
- d assurances that any operator involved is effective and has access to the required technical capacity and that the cost of the measure which he plans to carry out himself is not in excess of the normal market rates.

3 Once having examined the applications Member States shall select those offering the best value for money and draw up a list within the limit of available funds and shall communicate them to the Commission using the form set out in Annex VIII in order to allow the other Member States to be informed and to increase coherence of the measure.

4 Two or more Member States may decide to select a joint promotion operation. They shall undertake to contribute to the financing and agree on administrative collaboration procedures to facilitate the monitoring, implementation and checking.

5 Member States shall ensure that any national or regional supported campaign are in agreement with measures financed under Regulation (EC) No 3/2008 or Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 and measures funded under national and regional campaigns.

6 No support shall be granted under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 for a given operation supported under Article 20(c)(iii) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 or under Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 3/2008.

7 Member States may provide for support to be advanced before any operation has been implemented, provided that the beneficiary has lodged a security.

8 Where Member States grant national aid for promotion, they shall communicate them in the relevant part of Annexes I, V, VII and VIII to this Regulation.

Section 2

Restructuring and conversion of vineyards

Article 6

Definition

For the purposes of the second subparagraph of Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, 'the normal renewal of vineyards which have come to the end of their natural life' shall mean the replanting of the same parcel of land with the same variety according to the same system of vine cultivation. Member States may establish further specifications, especially as regards to the age of the vineyards replaced.

Article 7

Procedure and applications

- 1 Member States shall lay down:
 - a time limits for the implementation of restructuring operations, which shall not exceed five years;
 - b bodies or individuals that may submit draft applications;
 - c objective criteria for their prioritisation notably in accordance with Article 104(9) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008;
 - d the content of the request, which shall include detailed descriptions of the proposed measures and proposed deadlines for their execution;
 - e the procedure for the presentation and approval of request, which shall in particular provide for deadlines for the submission of requests and objective criteria for their prioritisation;
 - f a requirement that all requests shall state, for each financial year, the measures to be implemented in that financial year, and the area concerned by each measure and procedures for monitoring such implementation.
- 2 Member States may lay down a minimum size of the area which may qualify for support for restructuring and conversion, and a minimum size of area resulting from restructuring and conversion and any derogation from this requirement which shall be duly justified and based on objective criteria.

Article 8

Levels of support

Subject to the provisions of Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and of this Chapter, Member States shall lay down rules governing the detailed scope and the levels

of support to be granted. The rules may provide in particular for the payment of flat-rate amounts, for maximum levels of support per hectare and for the adjustment of support on the basis of objective criteria. In case planting rights used do not result from the restructuring operation and in order to avoid distortion of competition, the support shall be reduced accordingly to take into account the fact that the used planting rights have not caused any grubbing-up cost.

The support is paid for the area planted, defined in conformity with Article 75(1).

The rules shall be designed to ensure that the objective of the scheme is met.

Article 9

Financial management

1 Support shall be paid once it is ascertained that either a single operation or all the operations covered by the support application, according to the choice made by the Member State for the management of the measure, have been implemented and controlled on-the-spot.

Where support is normally payable only after implementation of all the operations, support shall nevertheless be paid for single operations implemented if the remaining operations could not be carried out due to *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances within the meaning of Article 40(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003⁽²⁾.

If checks show that an overall operation covered by the support application has not been fully implemented for reasons other than *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances within the meaning of Article 40(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003, and where support has been paid after single operations which are part of the overall operation covered by the support application, Member States shall decide to recover the aid paid.

2 As an exception to paragraph 1, the Member States may provide for support for a given operation, or for all the operations covered by the support application, to be advanced to producers before that any operation has been implemented, provided that implementation has begun and the beneficiary has lodged a security. For the purposes of Regulation (EEC) No 2220/85⁽³⁾, the obligation shall be to implement the operations concerned by the end of the second wine year following payment of the advance.

That period may be adjusted by the Member State in cases where:

- a areas concerned are part of an area which has suffered a natural disaster recognised by the competent authorities of the Member State concerned;
- b planned operations cannot be implemented because the plant material suffers health problems which have been certified by a body recognised by the Member State concerned.

In order for support to be paid in advance, any previous operation carried out on the same area, for which the producer also received support in advance, must have been fully implemented.

If checks show that the measure covered by the aid application, and for which an advance has been paid, has not been fully implemented, the Member States may decide to apply a penalty.

Article 10

Transitional measures

Member States may authorise the transformation of the ongoing restructuring operations already planned in application to Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 into a new application under Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 provided that:

- (a) any such transformation is funded within the funds made available in the support programme for the measure as referred to in Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008;
- (b) the continuation of the measure fulfils, after adaptations if needed, the conditions set down in this Article.

Section 3

Green harvesting

Article 11

Definition of green harvesting

For the purposes of Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and of this Section, leaving commercial grapes on the plants at the end of the normal production cycle (non-harvesting) shall not be considered green harvesting.

In addition, the area of any parcel supported with green harvesting shall not be counted when calculating the yield limits set in the technical specifications of wines with a geographical indication.

Article 12

Conditions for the implementation of green harvesting

- 1 In relation to the green harvesting measure, Member States shall:
 - a adopt detailed provisions on the implementation of the measure, including:
 - (i) prior notification of green harvesting;
 - (ii) the amount of compensation to be paid;
 - (iii) rules to ensure that the areas concerned will be kept in good vegetative conditions and that no negative impact on the environment nor any negative phytosanitary consequences result from the application of the measure and ensure that it is possible to check that the measure is carried out correctly; in relation to these objectives Member States may apply restrictions to the measure based on objective and non discriminatory criteria, including timing of different varieties, environmental or phytosanitary risks or the method.
 - b set the deadline for applications of green harvesting between 15 April and 31 May of each year;

- c establish by 31 May an expected market situation justifying the application of green harvesting to restore market balance and to prevent crisis;
- d ensure that the measure is carried out correctly by controlling whether a green harvesting operation is performed successfully; areas receiving green harvesting support shall be systematically verified on the spot after the execution; the plots checked shall be those which are the subject of an application for aid.

The control referred to in point (d) of the first subparagraph shall include:

- (i) verification of the existence of the vineyard concerned and whether the given area has been properly tended;
- (ii) that all bunches have been totally removed or destroyed;
- (iii) which method has been used; each farmer applying for green harvesting aid shall keep evidence of the costs of the operation.

In order to ensure that no more marketable grapes are left in the supported parcel, all controls shall take place between 15 June and 31 July of each year and, in any case, they will be complete by the normal time of Veraison (Baggiolini stage M, BBCH stage 83) in any given area.

- 2 Green harvesting shall not be applied on the same parcel for two consecutive years.
- 3 In case of complete or partial damage of the crops due to in particular natural disaster within the meaning of Article 2(8) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006⁽⁴⁾ before the date of green harvesting, no support shall be granted.
- 4 In case of complete or partial damage occurring between the payment of the green harvesting support and the harvesting period, no harvest insurance financial compensation of the loss of income may be granted for the area already supported.

Article 13

Application procedure

- 1 Member States shall lay down the application procedure shall in particular provide for the applicable premium to the producer concerned and the information required to accompany the application. The application shall contain details on the area, the average yield, the method to be used as well as the grape variety and the type of wine produced from it.
- 2 Member States shall verify whether the applications are well founded. For this purpose, they may foresee that a written undertaking of the producer is lodged upon application. In case the application is withdrawn without duly justified reason they may provide for the producer concerned to bear the costs incurred concerning the treatment of its request.

Article 14

Compensation

- 1 Each year Member States shall calculate the direct costs of green harvesting according to the different methods manual, mechanical and chemical that they allow in relation to Article 12(1)(a)(iii). In case more than one method is used on the same given area, compensation shall be calculated on the basis of the cheapest method.

2 The Member States shall define the loss of revenue caused by green harvesting on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

Subject to Article 12(4) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 Member States shall fix the level of support provided for in Article 12(3) of that Regulation on the basis of standard costs and standard assumptions of loss of revenue. Member States shall ensure that the calculations:

- a contain only elements that are verifiable;
- b are based on figures established by appropriate expertise;
- c indicate clearly the source of the figures;
- d are differentiated to take into account regional or local site conditions as appropriate;

The premium is paid for the area planted, defined in conformity with Article 75(1) of this Regulation.

Section 4

Mutual funds

Article 15

Level of the aid

The measure referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, may be introduced by the Member States in their support programme according to the following rules:

- (a) the support period should not exceed three years;
- (b) support for the administrative cost of setting up mutual funds shall be limited, in the first, second and third year of operation of the mutual fund respectively, to the following proportion of the contribution of the producers to the mutual fund in the first, second and third year of its operation:
 - (i) 10 %, 8 % and 4 % in the Member States which acceded to the Community on 1 May 2004 or thereafter;
 - (ii) 5 %, 4 % and 2 % in other Member States;
- (c) Member States may fix ceilings for the amounts of the administrative costs that may be received for the setting up of mutual funds;
- (d) Member States shall adopt detailed provisions for the implementation of that measure.

Section 5

Harvest insurance

Article 16

Conditions of eligibility

The measure referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, may be introduced by the Member States in their support programme according to the following rules:

- (a) in relation to harvest insurance measures, Member States shall adopt detailed provisions on the implementation of those measures, including those necessary to ensure that harvest insurance measures do not distort competition in the insurance market;
- (b) producers applying for the scheme shall make their insurance policy available to the national authorities in order to allow the Member States to comply with the condition referred to in Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008;
- (c) member States shall fix ceilings on the amounts that may be received for the support in order to respect the conditions referred to in Article 14(3) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008. Where appropriate, Member States may fix the level on the basis of standard costs and standard assumptions of income loss. Member States shall ensure that the calculations:
 - (i) contain only elements that are verifiable;
 - (ii) are based on figures established by appropriate expertise;
 - (iii) indicate clearly the source of the figures;
 - (iv) are differentiated to take into account regional or local site conditions as appropriate.

For the purposes of Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, an ‘adverse climatic event which can be assimilated to a natural disaster’ shall have the same meaning as in Article 2(8) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006.

Where Member States grant national aid for harvest insurance, they shall communicate them in the relevant part of Annexes I, V and VII to this Regulation.

Section 6

Investments

Article 17

Eligible measures

The supported investments shall respect the Community standards applicable to the investment concerned.

Eligible expenditure shall be:

- (a) the construction, acquisition, including leasing, or improvement of immovable property;
- (b) the purchase or lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset; other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure;
- (c) general costs linked to expenditure referred to in points (a), and (b), such as fees of architects and engineers and consultation fees, feasibility studies, the acquisition of patent rights and licences.

By way of derogation from point (b), and only for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises within the meaning of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC⁽⁵⁾, Member States may, in duly substantiated cases, establish the conditions under which the purchase of second-hand equipment may be regarded as eligible expenditure.

Simple replacement investments shall not be eligible expenditure so as to make sure that the aim of the measure, i.e. the improvement in terms of adjustment to market demand and increased competitiveness, is met by these investments in the processing chain measure.

Article 18

Eligible measures for the development of new products

Costs for the development of new products, processes and technologies as referred to in Article 15(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, shall concern preparatory operations, such as design, product, process or technology development and tests and tangible and/or intangible investments related to them, before the use of the newly developed products, processes and technologies for commercial purposes.

Simple replacement investments shall not be eligible expenditure so as to make sure that the aim of the measure, i.e. the improvement in terms of adjustment to market demand and increased competitiveness, is met by these supports.

Article 19

Financial management

Except in case of *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances within the meaning of Article 40(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003, occurring during the period in which the investments have to be undertaken, the support shall be paid once it is ascertained that all the investments covered by the support application, have been implemented and controlled on-the-spot.

Beneficiaries of investment support may request the payment of an advance from the competent paying agencies if this option is included in the national support programme.

The amount of the advances shall not exceed 20 % of the public aid related to the investment, and its payment shall be subject to the establishment of a bank guarantee or an equivalent guarantee corresponding to 110 % of the amount of the advance.

The guarantee shall be released when the competent paying agency establishes that the amount of actual expenditure corresponding to the public aid related to the investment exceeds the amount of the advance.

Article 20

Compatibility and consistency

No support shall be granted for marketing operations which received support under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

Where Member States grant national aid for investments, they shall communicate them in the relevant part of the forms set out in Annexes I, V and VII to this Regulation.

Section 7

Disposal of by-products

Article 21

Fixing a minimum percentage of alcohol

1 Subject to point 1 of Annex VI.D to Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, Member States shall establish the volume of alcohol that must be contained in the by-products in relation to that contained in the wine produced. Member States may modulate the minimum percentage of alcohol on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

2 Should the relevant percentage fixed by Member States in application of the first paragraph not be reached, those subject to the obligation shall deliver a quantity of wine from their own production, thus ensuring attainment of that percentage.

3 For the purpose of determining the volume of alcohol contained in the by-products in relation to that contained in the wine produced, the standard wine natural alcoholic strengths by volume to be applied in the different wine-growing zones shall be:

- a 8,0 % for zone A;
- b 8,5 % for zone B;
- c 9,0 % for zone C I;
- d 9,5 % for zone C II;
- e 10,0 % for zone C III.

Article 22

Disposal of by-products

Producers shall be required to withdraw the by-products of wine-making, or any other processing of grapes, under supervision subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the by-products shall be withdrawn without delay and no later than the end of the wine year in which they were obtained; Member States may fix an earlier deadline; withdrawal, together with an indication of the estimated quantities, shall be either

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entered in the registers kept in accordance with Article 112(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, or certified by the competent authority;

- (b) withdrawal shall respect applicable Community legislation, in particular as regards the environment.

The withdrawal of the wine lees in question shall be regarded as having taken place once the lees have been denatured to make their use in winemaking impossible and where the delivery of the denatured lees to third parties has been entered in the registers kept in accordance with Article 112(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008. Member States shall take the measures necessary to ensure that such transactions are checked. They may have a system of prior recognition of the concerned third parties.

Member States may decide that producers who, during the wine year in question, do not produce more than 25 hectolitres of wine or must themselves on their own premises are not required to withdraw their by-products.

Article 23

Disposal with by-product distillation

1 Producers may fulfil the obligation of disposal for a part or for the entirety of the by-products of wine-making or any other processing of grapes, by delivering the by-products to distillation.

2 Member States may require that the delivery to distillation of a part or of the entirety of the by-products of wine making or of any other processing of grapes is made compulsory for a part or for the entirety of their producers, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria. This obligation can be also fulfilled by the delivery of wine to the vinegar industry.

3 The relevant Member States may introduce a system of certification of distillers according to a procedure that they lay down.

Article 24

Purpose of the aid

1 The aid referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be paid, subject to the condition referred to in paragraph 3 and within the limit of the second subparagraph of paragraph 1 of the same Article, to distillers that process the products delivered to distillation into raw alcohol with an alcoholic strength of at least 92 % vol.

2 The relevant aid shall include a lump-sum amount destined to compensate the costs of collection of these products which shall be transferred from the distiller to the producer, if the relevant costs are borne by the latter.

3 Member States may provide for support to be advanced provided that the beneficiary has lodged a security.

4 Member States shall adopt detailed rules for applying the measure provided for in this Article.

Article 25

Amount of the aid

1 The maximum amount of the aid referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 to be paid to distillers is established by % volume alcohol and by hectolitre in the following manner:

- a for raw alcohol obtained from marcs: EUR 1,1/%vol./hl;
- b for raw alcohol obtained from wine and lees: EUR 0,5/%vol./hl.

2 Member States shall fix, within the limits provided for in paragraph 1 on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, the amount of aid and the lump-sum compensation for the collection costs referred to in Article 24(2), and communicate them to the Commission in the relevant part of Annexes I, V and VII forms. These amounts may be adjusted according to different production typologies, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

Section 8

Potable alcohol distillation

Article 26

Purpose of the aid

1 The aid referred to in Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be granted, subject to the conditions referred therein on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, to producers whose production has as a final use the production of wine distillates for the potable alcohol sector.

2 The aid may be paid to wine producers who are not themselves grape producers.

3 Member States may provide for support to be advanced provided that the beneficiary has lodged a security.

4 Member States shall adopt detailed rules for applying the measure provided for in this Article.

Article 27

Amount of the aid

Member States shall establish the amounts of per-hectare aid and communicate it to the Commission, in the relevant part of Annexes I, V and VII. These amounts may be adjusted, notably in accordance with production region and production conditions, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

Section 9

Crisis distillation

Article 28

Definition of the measure

1 Subject to the condition referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, and within the limit of the available budget, referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the same Article, Member States which open a crisis distillation on a part or on the entirety of their territory, for one or more wine categories, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, shall inform the Commission through a modification of their support programmes.

2 Member States may require that this distillation is made compulsory for a part or for the entirety of their producers, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

3 Member States shall adopt detailed rules for applying the measure provided for in this Article.

Article 29

Modalities of the aid

1 The aid referred to in Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 is paid, subject to the condition referred to in paragraph 3 of the same Article, to distillers, which process wine into raw alcohol with an alcoholic strength of at least 92 % vol.

2 The aid may include a minimum price, which shall be transferred by the distillers to the wine producers.

3 Member States may provide for support to be advanced provided that the beneficiary has lodged a security.

Article 30

Amount of the aid

1 Member States shall establish the amount of aid and, where relevant, the minimum price for the wine producers referred to in Article 29 hereto and communicate them to the Commission in the relevant part of the forms set-out in Annexes I, V and VII. These amounts can be adjusted, notably by production region and wine category, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria. In any event, the aid shall be fixed in such a way that the price paid to wine producers does not exceed the market price for the corresponding production region and wine category.

2 Where relevant, Member States shall correspondingly reduce the minimum price to producers for wines, whose alcoholic strength has been increased by adding sucrose or must having benefited from the aid referred to in Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

*Article 31***National aid**

Where Member States grant national aid for crisis distillation, they shall record details of each application and its outcome. They shall communicate this in the corresponding line set out in Annexes II, III and IV.

Section 10

Use of concentrated grape must*Article 32***Purpose of the aid**

1 Aid as referred to in Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be granted to wine producers who use concentrated grape must and rectified concentrated grape must produced in the Community to increase the natural alcoholic strength by volume of the products referred to in Annex V, point A, to Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

2 Member States may provide for support to be advanced provided that the beneficiary has lodged a security.

3 Member States shall adopt detailed rules for applying the measure provided for in this Article.

*Article 33***Amount of the aid**

1 The maximum amount of the aid referred to in Article 19(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be fixed as follows, by potential alcoholic strength by volume (% vol.) per hectolitre, for the following categories of products:

- a concentrated grape must: EUR 1,699/%vol/hl,
- b rectified concentrated grape must: EUR 2,206/%vol./hl.

2 Member States shall establish, within the limits provided for in paragraph 1 on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, the amount of aid for each category of product and communicate it to the Commission in the relevant part of the forms set-out in Annexes I, V and VII. These amounts may be modulated by region or vine-growing area, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

3 The potential alcoholic strength of the products listed in paragraph 1 shall be determined by applying the figures in the table of equivalence in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1623/2000 to the readings at 20° C from a refractometer used in accordance with the method laid down in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 558/93⁽⁶⁾. A tolerance of 0,2 %vol. shall be allowed in checks by the competent authorities.

Article 34

Checks

The competent authorities of the Member States shall take all necessary steps to ensure the checks needed in order to verify in particular the identity and volume of the product used to increase the alcoholic strength and compliance with points A and B of Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

CHAPTER III

Reporting, evaluation and general provisions

Article 35

Reporting and evaluation

- 1 The report referred to in Article 21(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be presented by Member States to the Commission in the form set out in Annex V and in Annex VI to this Regulation. The information contained in the appropriate tables shall refer to each year in respect of the measures of the support programme:
 - a a statement of expenditure by financial year already incurred in the programming period which will in no cases overshoot the limit of the total financial amount allocated to the Member State pursuant to Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 479/2008;
 - b support forecasts for subsequent financial years until the end of the foreseen period of implementation of the support programme, up to the limit of the total financial amount allocated to the Member State pursuant in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and in coherence with the most updated submission sent in application of Article 3 of this Regulation.
- 2 In the same communication, technical data related to the implementation of the measures in the support programme, shall be presented by the Member States in the form set out in Annex VII. The details on the implementation of the promotion measure shall be presented by the Member States in the form set out in Annex VIII.
- 3 References to a given financial year shall refer to payments actually made by Member States between 16 October and 15 October of the following year.
- 4 The reporting referred to in Article 21(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be presented by the Member States to the Commission in the same form set out in Annex V and in Annex VI to this Regulation. In addition the following items shall be inserted in the conclusions:
 - C1: Evaluation of the costs and benefit of the support programme;
 - C2: Ways to increase the efficiency of the support programme.
- 5 Member States shall communicate to the Commission the measures taken to comply with the provisions foreseen in Article 9(1) and 12(1)(d). The communication shall be made in the form set out in Annexes VIIa and VIIb.
- 6 Member States referred to in Article 5(4) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall not have an obligation to submit the forms set out in Annexes V, VI, VII, VIII, VIIa and VIIb to this Regulation.

7 Member States shall record the details of all support programmes, whether or not amended, and of all measures carried out in pursuance of programmes.

Article 36

Exclusion

None of the financial support from the national support programmes may be granted to producers concerned by unlawful areas referred to in Articles 85 and 86 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and for graft nurseries as referred to in Article 60(3) of this Regulation.

Article 37

Payment delay to beneficiaries

Member States shall for each measure with the exception of Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008:

- (a) set the application deadline;
- (b) after the date of lodging a valid and complete application, pay the beneficiaries within:
 - (i) seven months for measures which can be completed and controlled within one year;
 - (ii) a reasonable period to be set by the Member State and to be communicated to the Commission in the relevant parts of Annex I for measures which cannot be completed and controlled within one year.

TITLE III

TRADE WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

CHAPTER I

Entry price arrangements for grape juice and must

Article 38

Definition

For the purposes of this title ‘consignment’ means the quantity of a product consigned by one consignor to one consignee, presented under a single custom declaration for release for free circulation. Each declaration may cover only goods of one and the same origin, as defined in Articles 23 and 24 of Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92⁽⁷⁾, falling within a single Combined Nomenclature code.

Article 39

Verification by consignment

1 For products falling within CN codes 2009 61, 2009 69 and 2204 30 listed in Annex I, Part Three, Section I, Annex 2 to the Common Customs Tariff and subject to entry price arrangements, the actual customs value shall be verified by checking every consignment.

2 The entry price in Annex 2 of the Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87⁽⁸⁾ for the products indicated in paragraph 1 shall be determined on the basis of the customs value.

CHAPTER II

Certificates and analysis reports for wine, grape juice and must on import

Section 1

General

Article 40

Documents required

The certificate and the analysis report referred to in Article 82(3)(a) and (b), respectively, of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall form a single document:

- (a) the 'certificate' part of which shall be made out by a body of the third country from which the products comes;
- (b) the 'analysis report' part of which shall be made out by an official laboratory recognised by the third country from which the products comes.

Article 41

Contents of the analysis report

The analysis report shall include the following information:

- (a) in the case of wines and grape must in fermentation:
 - (i) the total alcoholic strength by volume;
 - (ii) the actual alcoholic strength by volume;
- (b) in the case of grape must and grape juice, the density;
- (c) in the case of wines, grape must and grape juice:
 - (i) the total dry extract;
 - (ii) the total acidity;

- (iii) the volatile acid content;
- (iv) the citric acid content;
- (v) the total sulphur dioxide content;
- (vi) the presence of varieties obtained from interspecific crossings (direct producer hybrids or other varieties not belonging to the *Vitis vinifera* species).

Article 42

Exemptions

1 No certificate or analysis report need be presented for products originating in and exported from third countries in labelled containers of not more than five litres fitted with a non-reusable closing device where the total quantity transported, whether or not made up of separate consignments, does not exceed 100 litres.

2 Where products do not fulfil the conditions set out in paragraph 1, no certificate and analysis report needs to be presented for:

- a wine, grape must and grape juice contained in the personal luggage of travellers within the meaning of Article 45 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 918/83⁽⁹⁾ up to a maximum of 30 litres per traveller;
- b wine sent in consignments from one private individual to another, within the meaning of Article 29 of Regulation (EEC) No 918/83 up to a maximum of 30 litres per consignment;
- c wine and grape juice forming part of the personal property of private individuals transferring their normal place of residence from a third country to the Community within the meaning of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 918/83;
- d wine and grape juice for trade fairs as defined in Article 95 of Regulation (EEC) No 918/83, provided that the products in question are put up in labelled containers of not more than two litres fitted with a non-reusable closing device;
- e quantities of wine, grape must and grape juice in other containers, imported for the purpose of scientific and technical experiments up to a maximum of 100 litres;
- f wines and grape juice imported in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of 18 April 1961, the Vienna Convention on consular relations of 24 April 1963 or other consular conventions, or the New York Convention of 16 December 1969 on special missions;
- g wines and grape juice held in stores on board of vessels and aircraft operating in international transport;
- h wines and grape juice originating and bottled in the European Community, exported to a third country and returned to the customs territory of the Community and released for free circulation.

Section 2

Requirements to be met and detailed rules for drawing up and using the certificate and analysis report for imports of wine, grape juice and grape must

Article 43

V I 1 document

1 The certificate and analysis report for each consignment intended for import into the Community shall be drawn up on a single V I 1 document.

The document referred to in the first subparagraph shall be drawn up on a V I 1 form corresponding to the specimen shown in Annex IX. It shall be signed by an officer of an official body and by an official of a recognised laboratory as referred to in Article 48.

2 Where the product concerned is not intended for direct human consumption, the analysis report section of the V I 1 form need not be completed.

In the case of wine put up in labelled containers of a capacity not exceeding 60 litres, fitted with non-reusable closing devices, and provided that the wine originates in a country appearing in Annex XII which has offered special guarantees accepted by the Community, the analysis report section of the V I 1 form need be completed only in respect of:

- a the actual alcoholic strength by volume;
- b the total acidity;
- c the total sulphur dioxide content.

Article 44

Description of documents

1 V I 1 forms shall comprise a typed or handwritten original and a simultaneously produced copy, in that order.

2 The V I 2 form shall be an extract made out in accordance with the specimen shown in Annex X, containing the data appearing on a V I 1 document or another V I 2 extract and stamped by a Community customs office. V I 2 forms shall comprise an original and two copies, in that order.

3 V I 1 documents and V I 2 extracts shall comply with the technical rules set out in Annex XI.

4 Both the original and the copy shall accompany the product. V I 1 and V I 2 forms must be completed either in typescript or by hand, or by equivalent technical means recognised by an official body. Handwritten forms shall be completed in ink and in capital letters. No erasures or overwriting shall be permitted. Any alterations shall be made by crossing out the incorrect particulars and, where appropriate, adding those required. Any change made in this way must be approved by its author and stamped, as the case may be, by the official agency, the laboratory or the customs authorities.

5 V I 1 documents and V I 2 extracts shall bear a serial number allocated, in the case of V I 1 documents, by the official agency whose officer signs the certificate and, in the case of V I 2 extracts, by the customs office which stamps them in accordance with Article 47(2) and (3).

6 Without prejudice to paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5, V I 1 and V I 2 may be issued and used using computerised systems in accordance with detailed rules laid down by the competent authorities of the Member States. The content of an electronic V I 1 and V I 2 must be identical to that one on paper.

Article 45

Simplified procedure

1 V I 1 documents made out by wine producers in the third countries listed in Annex XII which have offered special guarantees accepted by the Community shall be considered as certificates or analysis reports drawn up by agencies and laboratories included in the list provided for in Article 48 provided that the producers have received individual approval from the competent authorities of those third countries and are subject to inspection by the latter.

2 Approved producers as referred to in paragraph 1 shall use V I 1 forms giving in box 9 the name and address of the official agency of the third country which approved them. Producers shall complete the form, entering in addition:

- a in box 1, their names and addresses and their registration numbers in the third countries listed in Annex XII;
- b in box 10, at least the particulars provided for in Article 43(2).

The producers shall sign in the space provided in boxes 9 and 10, after striking out the words 'name and title of official'.

Neither stamps nor the name and address of the laboratory shall be required.

Article 46

Derogations

Application of Articles 43(2) and 45 of this Regulation may be suspended if it is found that the products to which these measures apply have been the subject of falsification likely to result in a health risk to consumers or uses of oenological practices others than the ones referred to in Article 82(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

Article 47

Use

1 The original and the copy of V I 1 documents or V I 2 extracts shall be handed over to the competent authorities of the Member State in which the customs formalities required for putting into free circulation the consignment to which they relate are carried out, on completion of those formalities.

The authorities shall, where necessary, endorse the back of the V I 1 document or the V I 2 extract. They shall return the original to the person concerned and keep the copy for at least five years.

2 Where a consignment is to be reconsigned complete before entry into free circulation, the new consignor shall give the customs authorities supervising the consignment the V I 1 document or the V I 2 extract relating to that consignment as well as, if appropriate, a V I 2 form completed consecutively.

The authorities shall verify that the particulars entered on the V I 1 document agree with those entered on the V I 2 form or that the particulars entered on the V I 2 extract agree with those entered on the V I 2 form completed consecutively, and shall then stamp the latter, which shall then be equivalent to the V I 2 extract, and endorse the document or previous extract accordingly. They shall return the extract and the original of the V I 1 document or the previous V I 2 extract to the new consignor and keep the copy of the document or previous extract for at least five years.

However, a V I 2 form need not be completed where a consignment of a product is re-exported to a third country.

3 Where a consignment is split before it enters into free circulation, the person concerned shall give the original and the copy of the V I 1 document or the V I 2 extract relating to the consignment to be split to the customs authorities supervising that consignment, together with a V I 2 form and two copies completed consecutively for each new consignment.

The authorities shall verify that the particulars entered on the V I 1 document or on the V I 2 extract correspond to those on the V I 2 form completed consecutively for each new consignment, and shall then stamp the latter, which shall then be equivalent to the V I 2 extract, and endorse accordingly the back of the V I 1 document or the V I 2 extract on which it was based. They shall return the V I 2 extract together with the V I 1 document or the V I 2 extract previously completed to the person concerned and keep a copy of each of these documents for at least five years.

Article 48

List of competent bodies

1 The Commission shall draw up and update lists containing the names and addresses of the agencies and laboratories, and of the wine producers authorised to draw up V I 1 document, on the basis of notifications from the competent authorities of third countries. The Commission shall make the names and addresses of these agencies and laboratories public on the internet.

2 The notifications from the competent authorities of third countries referred to in paragraph 1 shall contain:

- a the names and addresses of the official agencies and laboratories approved or appointed for the purpose of drawing up V I 1 documents;
- b the names, addresses and official registration numbers of the wine producers authorised to draw up V I 1 documents.

The lists referred to in paragraph 1 shall contain only agencies and laboratories as referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph which have been authorised by the competent authorities of the third country concerned to provide the Commission and the Member States, on request, with any information required to evaluate the data appearing on the document.

3 The lists shall be updated, in particular to take account of changes of address and/or name of agencies or laboratories.

Article 49

Indirect imports

In cases where a wine is exported from a third country in whose territory it was produced (hereinafter referred to as ‘the country of origin’) to another third country (hereinafter referred to as ‘the exporting country’), from which it is then exported to the Community, the competent authorities of the exporting country may draw up the V I 1 document for the wine concerned on the basis of a V I 1 document or equivalent drawn up by the competent authorities of the country of origin, without having to perform further analyses on the wine, if that wine:

- (a) has already been bottled and labelled in the country of origin and remains so; or
- (b) is exported in bulk from the country of origin and bottled and labelled in the exporting country without any further processing.

The competent authority of the exporting country shall certify on the V I 1 document that the wine in question is a wine to which the first paragraph refers and that it fulfils the conditions set out therein.

The original or a certified copy of the V I 1 document or equivalent of the country of origin shall be attached to the V I 1 document of the exporting country.

The only countries of origin for the purposes of this Article shall be those appearing on the list, published in accordance with Article 48(1), of agencies and laboratories that are appointed by third countries to complete the documents that must accompany each consignment of imported wine.

Article 50

Special rules for particular wines

1 In the case of liqueur wines and wines fortified for distillation, the V I 1 documents shall be recognised as valid only where the official agency as referred to in Article 48 has entered the following in box 14:

the alcohol added to this wine is certified as being wine alcohol.

The entry shall be accompanied by the following information:

- a the full name and address of the issuing agency;
- b the signature of an official of the agency;
- c the agency's stamp.

2 The V I 1 document may be used as certifying that an imported wine bears a geographical indication in conformity with either the agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), or the Community legislation on geographical indications or an agreement on recognition and protection of geographical indications between the European Community and the third country from which the wine originates.

In such a case, box 14 shall indicate the following:

the wine covered by this document is certified as having been produced in the ... wine-growing region and was given the geographical indication shown in box 6 in accordance with the provisions of the country of origin.

The entry shall be accompanied by the information provided for in the second subparagraph of paragraph 1.

Article 51

Conformity of imported wines

Where the competent authorities of a Member State suspect that a product originating in a third country does not comply with Article 82(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, they shall inform the Commission thereof without delay.

CHAPTER III

Specific provisions on exports

Article 52

Notification of official bodies

1 Member States shall send the Commission the lists of official or officially recognised bodies that they propose should issue attestations proving that the wine in question meets the conditions for access to the concessions provided for in the agreements with third countries.

2 The Commission shall act on behalf of the Community in drawing up and exchanging, jointly with the third country concerned, the list of official bodies authorised to draw up the attestations referred to in paragraph 1 and the equivalent certificate issued by the third country concerned.

3 The Commission shall make the list provided for in paragraph 2 public and update it periodically.

CHAPTER IV

Transitional provisions

Article 53

VI 1 and VI 2 conformity

VI 1 and VI 2 documents which were in conformity with the provisions applicable when they were put into circulation but which no longer conform to those provisions from the date of application of this Regulation may continue to be used until 31 December 2008.

*Article 54***Release of security**

At the request of the interested parties, the securities lodged for the issuing of import and export licenses, shall be released from 1 August 2008, if the validity of the licenses has not expired before that date.

TITLE IV

PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

CHAPTER I

Unlawful plantings*Article 55***Penalties in case of non-compliance with the grubbing-up obligation**

1 The penalties referred to in Article 85(3) and Article 86(4) second subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be determined so as to provide an appropriate sanction for those who violated the provisions concerned.

Without prejudice, where applicable, to earlier penalties imposed by Member States, Member States shall determine the penalties referred to in Article 85(3) and Article 86(4) second subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 on the basis of the following principles:

- a basic financial penalty to be imposed shall be at least EUR 12 000/ha;
- b Member States may increase the penalty based on the commercial value of the wines produced in the vineyards concerned.

2 Member States shall impose the penalty referred to in Article 85(3) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008:

- a for unlawful plantings existing at the time of the entry into force of this Regulation for the first time on 1 January 2009;
- b for unlawful plantings from after the entry into force of this Regulation for the first time with effect of the date of those plantings.

The penalty shall be levied again every 12 months, counted from those dates and in accordance with the criteria established in paragraph 1 of this Article, until compliance with the grubbing-up obligation.

3 Member States shall impose the penalty referred to in Article 86(4) second subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 for the first time on 1 July 2010 for non-compliance with the grubbing-up obligation and thereafter every 12 months until compliance in accordance with the criteria established in paragraph 1 of this Article

4 Penalties collected within the meaning of this Article shall be retained by the Member State concerned.

Article 56

Penalties in case of non-compliance with prohibition of circulation

- 1 The penalties referred to in Article 87(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be determined so as to mean an appropriate sanction for those who violated the provisions concerned.
- 2 The penalties referred to in paragraph 1 shall be imposed if a producer concerned, having more than 0.1 hectares of vineyard area, and according to the appropriate case:
 - a does not submit the distillation contract by the deadline specified in the second subparagraph of Article 57(1) or these contracts do not cover the entire production concerned, as declared in the harvest or production declaration; or
 - b does not inform the competent authority about the intended green harvesting by the deadline specified in the third subparagraph of Article 57(1) or does not carry out the green harvesting in a satisfactory manner.
- 3 Member States shall impose the penalties referred to in paragraph 1:
 - a in case of non-submission of the distillation contract, one month after the expiry of the deadline laid down in the second subparagraph of Article 57(1);
 - b in case of failure to comply with the rules about green harvesting, on 1 September of the calendar year concerned.
- 4 Penalties collected within the meaning of this Article shall be retained by the Member State concerned.

Article 57

Non-circulation or distillation

- 1 In case of Article 87(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, the grapes or products made from grapes may only have one the following destinations:
 - a distillation at the exclusive expense of the producer;
 - b green harvesting in accordance with the definition of Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, at the expense of the producer concerned;
 - c family consumption; this possibility is only acceptable if the producer's vineyard area does not exceed 0,1 ha.

In case of the distillation foreseen in point (a) of the first subparagraph:

- producers shall submit the distillation contract foreseen in Article 87(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 by the end of the wine year in which the products were produced,
- products produced before regularisation of the vineyard in accordance with Article 86(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be subject to the distillation obligation.

In case of the green harvesting as foreseen in point (b) of the first subparagraph, producers shall inform the competent authority in advance about their intention before a date fixed by the Member States in accordance with Article 12(1)(b). Member States shall control green harvesting according to Article 12(1)(d) of this Regulation.

- 2 Without prejudice to paragraph 1, in order to facilitate control, Member States may foresee an obligation to the producers to notify the competent authority of the Member State

before the date fixed by the Member States in accordance with Article 12(1)(b) which of the possibilities mentioned in points (a) to (c) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 of this Article they are going to choose.

Member States may also limit the choice of producers to only one or two of the possibilities mentioned in points (a) to (c) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1.

3 In case the given producer has vineyards the products from which may be marketed, the competent authorities shall be responsible for ensuring that the products from the unlawful planting are not added to the products of these other vineyards that are marketed.

Article 58

Communications

1 Member States shall communicate to the Commission by 1 March each year the areas for which penalty was paid and the amount of penalty that was actually imposed in the form set out in table 1 of Annex XIII. They shall also communicate the Commission their legislation related to these penalties.

2 Save as otherwise indicated in the appropriate tables of Annex XIII to this Regulation, the communications referred to in Article 85(4), Article 86(5) and Article 87(3) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall refer to the previous wine year.

When the communications according to Article 85(4) and Article 86(5) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 are made for the first time, by 1 March 2009 at the latest, the information contained in the appropriate tables shall refer to the following:

- a any unlawful planting planted after 31 August 1998 detected since that date until the end of the 2007/2008 wine year and still not grubbed up by 31 July 2008, if such data are available;
- b any unlawful planting planted before 1 September 1998 the application for regularisation according to Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of which was accepted or refused by the Member State between 1 August 2007 and 31 July 2008.

For the purpose of the communication referred to in point (a) of the second subparagraph, Table 2 of Annex XIII to this Regulation shall be used.

For the purpose of the communication referred to in point (b) of the second subparagraph, Table 4 of Annex XIII to this Regulation shall be used.

The Commission retains the right to request information about the unlawful plantings concerned on the basis of formerly valid but not respected communication obligations based on Article 2(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1227/2000.

The later, yearly communications shall be made in the form set out in Tables 3, 5, 6 and 7 of Annex XIII to this Regulation.

3 Member States may decide whether or not to include details related to regions in the communications mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 59

Reductions imposed on Member States

In case Member States fail to communicate any of the tables by the relevant deadlines, except for Table 2, referred to in Article 58, in the form laid down in Annex XIII to this Regulation, containing the information specified in Articles 85(4), 86(5) and 87(3) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and filled in appropriately, their allocation for the support measures referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 may be reduced as foreseen in Article 89(a) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008. The Commission may decide that, according to the scope of the failure, for every month of delay, an amount of up to a total of 1 % of the allocation for the support measures of the given Member State shall be forfeited starting from the beginning of the wine year following the one in which the communication was due.

CHAPTER II

Transitional planting right regime

Article 60

New planting rights

1 Where Member States grant new planting rights in respect of areas intended for new planting carried out under measures for land consolidation or measures concerning compulsory purchases in the public interest adopted under national legislation, they shall ensure that these rights are not granted for an area greater in terms of pure crop than 105 % of the area under vines which was the subject of the measures for land consolidation or measures concerning compulsory purchases in the public interest.

2 Where Member States grant new planting rights in respect of areas intended for experiments, products made from grapes coming from such areas may not be marketed throughout the experimental period.

3 Where Member States grant new planting rights in respect of areas intended for graft nurseries, grapes of such vines shall either not be harvested or, if harvested, shall be destroyed throughout the period of production of the graft nurseries.

4 New planting rights granted under paragraphs 2 and 3 shall only apply during the experimental period or the period of production of the graft nurseries, respectively.

After the period referred to in the first subparagraph, either:

- a the producer shall use replanting rights or planting rights granted from a reserve in order to permit the area concerned to produce wine which is to be marketed; or
- b the vines planted on such areas shall be grubbed up; the expenses of such grubbing-up shall be borne by the producer concerned; until the area concerned is grubbed up, products made from grapes coming from such areas may be put into circulation only for the purposes of distillation, at the expense of the producer; these products may not be used in the preparation of alcohol having an actual alcoholic strength of 80 % vol. or less.

5 New planting rights, and any conditions on the use of such rights or areas planted pursuant to them granted prior to 1 August 2000 in respect of areas intended for experiments or graft nurseries shall continue to apply during the experimental period or the period of production of the graft nurseries, respectively. The rules in the second subparagraph of paragraph 4 shall apply to such areas after the end of the experimental period or the period of the production of the graft nurseries, respectively.

6 In the case of Article 91(1)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, in order to avoid an excessive administrative burden being imposed, a Member State may, instead of granting new planting rights, provide that areas whose wine or vine products are intended solely for consumption by the vine grower's family shall not be subject to the grubbing-up requirement in Article 85(1) of that Regulation. Member States may do so only on condition that:

- a the area in respect of any given grower does not exceed a maximum area to be laid down by that Member State, which may, in any case, not be larger than 0,1 hectare; and
- b the vine grower concerned is not involved in commercial wine production.

7 The marketing of the wine or vine products coming from the areas referred to in paragraph 6 shall be prohibited. Member States shall apply an appropriate system to monitor this prohibition. Should a breach of this prohibition be discovered, then in addition to any penalties imposed by the Member State, point (b) of the second subparagraph of paragraph 4 shall apply. Member States shall record all cases dealt with under this paragraph.

Article 61

Member States' recording and communication obligations related to new planting rights

Member States shall record each case where new planting rights are granted according to Article 60.

Member States shall communicate the following information to the Commission in respect of each wine year:

- (a) the total areas for which new planting rights have been granted under each of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Article 60; and
- (b) the total area for which new planting rights have been granted under Article 91(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008; however, where a Member State makes use of the derogation in paragraph 6 of Article 60 of this Regulation, it shall instead communicate an estimate of the total area concerned, which shall be based on the results of the monitoring carried out.

This communication shall be made in the form set out in Table 8 of Annex XIII. Member States may decide whether or not to include details related to regions in it. It shall be transmitted to the Commission at the latest by 1 March each year in respect of the previous wine year.

Article 62

Grubbing up without generation of replanting right

Where an area is grubbed up pursuant to Article 24(4), Article 85(1) or Article 86(4) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 or point (b) of the second subparagraph of Article 60(4)

of this Regulation, no replanting rights shall be granted. Furthermore, no replanting rights shall be granted in the event of grubbing up of:

- (a) any area of vines in the implementation of measures for land consolidation or measures concerning compulsory purchases in the public interest, where new planting rights have been granted in relation to such areas under Article 60(1) of this Regulation;
- (b) areas intended for wine-growing experiments during the experimental period;
- (c) areas intended for graft nurseries during the period of production of the graft nurseries;
- (d) areas intended solely for the consumption of the vine grower's family; or
- (e) areas for which a grubbing-up premium is granted, in accordance with Article 92(1) second subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008

Article 63

Anticipated replanting rights

1 According to Article 92(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, Member States may grant replanting rights to producers who undertake to grub up an area of vines before the end of the third wine year after the area was planted. This can be done only where that producer can show that he has no, or insufficient, planting rights in his possession which could be used to permit the entire area concerned to be planted with vines. A Member State shall grant no more rights to a producer than are necessary to permit the entire area concerned to be planted with vines, taking into account any rights already in his possession. The producer shall specify the particular area to be grubbed up.

2 When giving the undertaking referred to in paragraph 1, a producer shall lodge a security. The obligation to grub up the area concerned shall constitute the 'primary requirements' within the meaning of Article 20(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2220/85. The amount of the security shall be set by the Member State concerned on the basis of objective criteria. The security shall be set at a level which is proportionate and sufficient to dissuade producers from failing to carry out their undertaking.

3 Until the undertaking to grub up has been carried out, Member States shall ensure that, in any given wine year, there is not simultaneously a commercial production of wine from both the area to be grubbed up and the newly planted area, by ensuring that, the products made from grapes coming from either of the areas may be put into circulation only for the purposes of distillation, at the expense of the producer. These products may not be used in the preparation of alcohol having an actual alcoholic strength of 80 % vol. or less.

4 If the undertaking to grub up is not carried out by the deadline set, then the particular area which has not been grubbed up shall be treated as having been planted in breach of the restriction on planting in Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

5 Member States shall monitor the planting and grubbing-up of the areas concerned.

6 Member States shall keep a record of all case dealt with under paragraphs 1 to 5.

Article 64

Transfers of replanting rights

1 In applying the second subparagraph of Article 92(5) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, Member States may apply an equivalent reduction coefficient to transfers of replanting rights between holdings.

2 Member States shall keep a record of all transfers of replanting rights between holdings.

Article 65

Reserves of planting rights

1 Member States shall ensure that the transfer of rights via a national reserve and/or regional reserves does not lead to an overall increase in production potential on their territory. If needed, Member States may apply a reduction coefficient.

2 A Member State shall notify the Commission of the creation of national and/or regional reserves of planting rights or, as the case may be, of its choice not to implement any longer the reserve system.

3 Where a Member State chooses not to implement the reserve system, it shall communicate to the Commission proof that an effective system for managing planting rights exists throughout its territory.

4 Member States shall keep a record of all cases where planting rights are granted from reserves, of all cases where planting rights are transferred between reserves and all cases where planting rights are allocated to reserves. Any payments made in return for allocating rights to a reserve or for granting rights from a reserve shall also be recorded.

5 Member States shall, in the form laid down in Table 9 of Annex XIII, communicate to the Commission in respect of each wine year:

- a the planting rights allocated to the reserves;
- b the planting rights granted from the reserve against or without payment.

Article 66

Maintenance of the planting rights system

Member States that want to maintain the prohibition of plantings in their territory or parts of their territory as referred to in Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 beyond 31 December 2015 according to the possibility provided for in Article 90(6) of that Regulation, shall communicate their appropriate intention to the Commission by 1 March 2015.

CHAPTER III

Grubbing-up scheme

Article 67

Eligibility

1 The grubbing-up premium may be granted only if proofs are available that the vineyard area concerned is properly tended. Without prejudice to the control provided for in Article 81(3) of this Regulation, the harvest declaration according to Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1282/2001⁽¹⁰⁾ is required for this purpose for at least the two wine years preceding the entry into force of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and the three wine years preceding the grubbing up.

2 Notwithstanding paragraph 1, Member States may foresee that producers who are exempted from the obligation to submit harvest declaration according to Article 2(2)(c) or Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1282/2001, may prove their grape production on the basis of the declaration specified under Article 2(2)(c) or the production declaration as referred to in Article 4(1) of that Regulation.

In case neither the harvest declaration nor the declaration specified under Article 2(2)(c) or in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1282/2001 is available due to well justifiable reasons, Member States may foresee alternative means to ensure that the vineyard was properly tended. Member States shall be responsible for the thorough verification of the trustworthiness of these alternative means.

3 Before accepting an application for payment, Member States shall ensure that the eligibility criteria under Article 100, points (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 have been met.

Article 68

Exemption reasons

1 Mountain and steep slope areas that may be declared ineligible for the grubbing-up scheme in accordance with Article 104(4) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be the following:

- a mountain areas which are above at least 500 m altitude, excluding high plains;
- b areas with a slope exceeding at least 25 %;
- c areas with terraces.

2 The communication referred to in Article 104(8) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall contain indicative information on the size of such areas and shall be made in the format set out in Annex XIV to this Regulation.

Article 69

Premium level

1 Without prejudice to national aids that may be given according to Article 106 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, the scales of the premium provided for in Article 101 of that Regulation shall be as set out in Annex XV to this Regulation.

2 The historical yield referred to in Article 101(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be established on the basis of the average yield of the holding, or, if available, the average yield of the parcel or the average yield for a certain wine category within the given holding for which the grubbing-up premium is requested. The average yield shall be calculated on the basis of the average yield in the five years between 2003/2004 and 2007/2008, excluding the years with the lowest and the highest yield.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph:

- a Member States which joined the Community in 2004 or 2007 and did not have a system of harvest declarations in the entire period between 2003/2004 and 2007/2008 shall calculate the historical yield on the basis of the average yield in the years between 2005/2006 and 2007/2008;
- b a producer whose production was adversely affected during the reference period for more than a year by a case of *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances occurring during that reference period shall be entitled to request that the historical yield be established on the basis of the average yields of the wine years in the period referred to in the first or, when applicable, in point (a) of this subparagraph which were not affected by the case of *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances.

3 The average yield shall be determined on the basis of the harvest declarations.

Notwithstanding the first subparagraph, Member States may foresee that producers who are exempted from the obligation to submit a harvest declaration according to Article 2(2)(c) or Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1282/2001, may prove their grape production on the basis of the declaration specified under Article 2(2)(c) or the production declaration as referred to in Article 4(1) of that Regulation.

Member States may foresee that in case of members of cooperatives or other groups to which they belong or with which they are associated who do not have the declaration specified under Article 2(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1282/2001, the average yield of the cooperative or the group may be taken into account, provided that the cooperative or group certifies that the given producer actually delivered grapes to them in the years concerned. In this case, if available, the average yield for a certain wine category within the given cooperative or group for which the grubbing-up premium is requested shall be taken into account.

Member States may foresee that in case neither the harvest declaration nor the declaration specified under Article 2(2)(c) or in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1282/2001 is available due to well justifiable reasons, to be verified by the Member States, apart from those mentioned under the second and third subparagraphs, the historical yield shall be the average yield of the region concerned.

Member States shall be responsible for the thorough verification of the trustworthiness of the declarations and the alternative sources used to establish the historical yield presented in accordance with this Article.

- 4 The premium is paid for the area planted, defined in conformity with Article 75.

Article 70

Application procedure

1 Member States shall lay down the application procedure, which shall in particular provide for:

- a the information required to accompany the application;
- b subsequent communication of the applicable premium to the producer concerned;
- c the date before which the grubbing up has to take place.

2 Member States shall verify whether the applications are well founded. For this purpose, they may foresee a written undertaking to be made by the producer concerned upon application. In case the application is withdrawn without duly justified reason they may provide for the producer concerned to bear the costs incurred concerning the treatment of its request.

Article 71

Procedure in case of application of a single percentage for acceptance

1 When applying the percentage for acceptance as referred to in Article 102(4) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, Member States shall proceed in each year concerned as follows:

- a as far as the available budget resources allocated to a Member State allow, all the applications for the grubbing-up of the entire vineyard of a producer shall be accepted, without applying any reduction to their applications; if the available budget resources allocated to a Member State are not sufficient for accepting all of these applications, Member States shall distribute the available budget on the basis of the objective and non-discriminatory criteria laid down in their national rules;
- b after having deducted from the available budget resources allocated to a Member State the amounts referred to under point (a) of this paragraph, as far as the rest of the available budget resources allow, all the applications of applicants who are not less than 55 years old or older where Member States so provided under Article 102(5)(b) (ii) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be accepted, without applying any reduction to their applications; if the available budget resources allocated to a Member State are not sufficient for accepting all of these applications, Member States shall distribute the available budget on the basis of the objective and non-discriminatory criteria laid down in their national rules;
- c after having deducted from the available budget resources allocated to a Member State the amounts concerned by points (a) and (b), Member States shall distribute the rest of the available budget on the basis of the objective and non-discriminatory criteria laid down in their national rules.

2 The objective and non-discriminatory criteria referred to in Article 102(5)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be determined by the Member States so as to allow that no reduction is applied to the applications that can be accepted. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the criteria referred to in paragraph 1 by 15 October each year, within Table 10 of Annex XIII to this Regulation.

Article 72

Payment of the premium

Payment of the grubbing-up premium shall be made after verification that grubbing-up has taken place and at the latest by 15 October of the year in which the application was accepted by the Member States according to Article 102(5) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

Article 73

Communications

1 The communications referred to in paragraphs 2, 5 and 6 of Article 102 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be made in the format given in Tables 10 to 12 of Annex XIII to this Regulation. Member States may decide whether or not to include details related to regions in these tables.

2 Where Member States grant national aid for grubbing-up, they shall include this information in the tables referred to in paragraph 1.

3 When a Member State decides, according to Article 104(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, to reject further applications, it shall communicate its decision to the Commission.

4 Member States shall communicate to the Commission the measures taken to comply with the provision foreseen in Article 104(9) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008. The communication shall be made in the format given in Table 12 of Annex XIII to this Regulation.

5 Member States shall communicate to the Commission not later than 1 December each year an annual report on results of controls conducted in the previous financial year on the grubbing-up scheme. The communication shall be made in the format given in Table 13 of Annex XIII.

CHAPTER IV

Inventory and measurement of the area planted

Article 74

Inventory

The data communicated in the inventory according to Article 109 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall refer to 31 July of the previous wine year.

It shall contain the information specified in the Tables 14 to 16 of Annex XIII to this Regulation. Member States may decide whether or not to include details related to regions in these tables.

Article 75

Area planted

1 For the purpose of the restructuring and conversion of vineyards, the green harvesting and the grubbing-up measures referred to in Articles 11, 12 and 98 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, an area planted with vines is defined by the external perimeter of the vine stocks with the addition of a buffer whose width corresponds to half of the distance between the rows. The area planted shall be determined in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 30(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 796/2004⁽¹¹⁾.

2 In case the historical yield referred to in Article 101(2) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 is determined on the basis of an area that does not correspond to the definition given in paragraph 1 of this Article, Member States may proceed with the recalculation of the yield by dividing the production of the given holding or parcel or wine category by the area planted with vines, producing the given volume of wine, as defined in paragraph 1.

TITLE V

CONTROLS IN THE WINE SECTOR

CHAPTER I

Principles of control

Article 76

Checks

Without prejudice to specific provisions of this Regulation or other Community legislation, Member States shall introduce checks and measures in so far as they are necessary to ensure the proper application of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and this Regulation. They shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive so that they provide adequate protection for the Communities' financial interests.

In particular, Member States shall ensure that:

- (a) all eligibility criteria established by Community or national legislation or the national framework can be checked;
- (b) the competent authorities responsible for carrying out checks have a sufficient number of suitably qualified and experienced staff to carry out the checks effectively;
- (c) provision is made for checks to avoid irregular duplicated financing of measures under this Regulation and other Community or national schemes;
- (d) the checks and measures are in line with the nature of the support measure concerned. Member States shall define methods and means for verification and specify who shall be subject to checks;

- (e) controls are carried out either systematically or by sampling. In the case of sampling, Member States shall ensure that by their number, nature and frequency controls are representative of the whole of their territory and correspond, where applicable, to the volume of wine-sector products marketed or held with a view to their marketing;
- (f) the operations admitted to community financing are genuine and comply with the Community legislation.

Article 77

General principles

- 1 Verification shall be by administrative and where appropriate on-the-spot checks.
- 2 Administrative checks shall be systematic and shall include cross-checks with, *inter alia*, data from the integrated administration and control system provided for in Chapter 4 of Title II of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003.
- 3 Except for the cases where systematic on the spot checks are foreseen by Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 or by this Regulation, the competent authorities shall perform on-the-spot checks by sampling an appropriate percentage of beneficiaries/producers on the basis of a risk analysis in accordance with Article 79 of this Regulation.
- 4 Concerning the measures foreseen by Articles 16, 17, 18 and 19 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 the sample size shall be at least 5 % of aid applications. The sample must also represent at least 5 % of the amounts covered by the aid.
- 5 Concerning measures foreseen by Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, Articles 26, 27 and 28 of Regulation (EC) No 1975/2006⁽¹²⁾ shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- 6 Article 26(3) and (4) of Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 shall apply to on-the-spot checks provided for in this Article.
- 7 In all appropriate cases, Member States shall make use of the integrated administration and control system (IACS).

Article 78

On-the-spot checks

- 1 On-the-spot checks shall be unannounced. However, provided that the purpose of the check is not compromised, advance notice limited to the strict minimum necessary may be given. Such notice shall not exceed 48 hours, except in duly justified cases or for those measures where systematic on the spot checks are foreseen.
- 2 Where applicable, the on-the-spot checks provided for in this Regulation shall be carried out in conjunction with any other checks provided for by Community legislation.
- 3 The aid application or applications concerned shall be rejected if beneficiaries or their representatives prevent an on-the-spot check from being carried out.

Article 79

Selection of the control sample

1 Control samples for on-the-spot checks under this Regulation shall be selected by the competent authority on the basis of a risk analysis and — where controls specifically concern community financing — of representativeness of the aid applications submitted. The effectiveness of risk analysis shall be assessed and updated on an annual basis:

- a by establishing the relevance of each risk factor;
- b by comparing the results of the risk based and randomly selected sample referred to in the second subparagraph;
- c by taking into account the specific situation in the Member State.

To provide the element of representativeness, the Member States shall select randomly between 20 and 25 % of the minimum number of beneficiaries/producers to be subjected to on-the-spot checks.

2 The competent authority shall keep records of the reasons why specific beneficiaries/producers were selected for on-the-spot checks. The inspector performing the on-the-spot check shall be informed of those reasons before beginning the check.

Article 80

Control report

1 Every on-the-spot check shall be the subject of a control report which makes it possible to review the details of the checks carried out.

As far as controls concern community financing the report shall indicate in particular:

- a the aid schemes and applications checked;
- b the persons present;
- c where applicable the agricultural areas checked, the agricultural areas measured, the results of the measurements per parcel measured and the measuring methods used;
- d the verification whether the given area has been properly tended in the case of grubbing-up scheme;
- e the quantities which are covered by the check and their results;
- f whether advance notice was given to the beneficiary/producer of the visit and, if so, how much;
- g any further control measures carried out.

2 Where discrepancies are found between the information in the application and the actual situation found during the check carried out on the spot or by remote sensing, the grower shall receive a copy of the control report and shall have the opportunity to sign it before the competent authority draws its conclusions from the findings with regard to any resulting reductions or exclusions.

Article 81

Control related to the production potential

1 For the purpose of verification of compliance with the provisions on production potential laid down in Title V of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, including the compliance with the prohibition on new planting laid down in Article 90(1) of that Regulation, Member States shall make use of the vineyard register.

2 When granting replanting rights as foreseen in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008, areas shall be systematically verified before and after the execution of the grubbing up. The plots checked shall be those for which replanting right is to be granted.

The control before the grubbing-up shall include verification of the existence of the vineyard concerned.

This control shall be carried out via a classical on-the-spot check. However, if the Member State disposes of a reliable updated computerised vineyard register, the control can be carried out administratively and the obligation of a control on the spot before grubbing-up can be limited to 5 % of the applications (on annual basis) in order to confirm the reliability of the administrative control system. Should on-the-spot checks reveal significant irregularities or discrepancies in a region or part of a region, the competent authority shall appropriately increase the number of on-the-spot checks during the year concerned and the following year.

3 Areas receiving grubbing-up premium shall be systematically verified before and after the execution of the grubbing up. The plots verified shall be those which are the subject of an application for aid.

The control before the grubbing-up shall include verification of the existence of the vineyard concerned, the area planted determined in accordance with Article 75 and whether the given area has been properly tended.

This control shall be carried out via a classical on-the-spot check. However, if the Member State disposes of a graphical tool that allows measurement of the parcel in accordance with Article 75 in the computerised vineyard register and of reliable updated information about the parcel being properly tended, the control can be carried out administratively and the obligation of a control on the spot before the grubbing-up may be limited to 5 % of the applications in order to confirm the reliability of the administrative control system. Should on-the-spot checks reveal significant irregularities or discrepancies in a region or part of a region, the competent authority shall increase the number of on-the-spot checks appropriately during the year concerned.

4 Verification that grubbing-up has actually taken place shall be done by a classical on-the-spot control or, in the case of grubbing up the entire vineyard parcel or if the resolution of the remote sensing is equal or better than 1 m², may be carried out by remote sensing.

5 In case of areas receiving grubbing-up premium, without prejudice to paragraph 3, third subparagraph and paragraph 4, at least one of the two controls mentioned in the first subparagraph of paragraph 3 shall be carried out via a classical on-the-spot check.

Article 82

Control bodies

1 Where a Member State designates several competent bodies to check compliance with the rules governing the wine sector, it shall coordinate the work of those bodies.

2 Each Member State shall designate a single liaison body responsible for contacts with the liaison bodies of other Member States and with the Commission. In particular, the liaison body shall receive and forward requests for cooperation with a view to implementing this Title, and shall represent its Member State vis-à-vis other Member States or the Commission.

Article 83

Powers of control officials

Each Member State shall take all appropriate measures to facilitate the work of the officials of its competent bodies. It shall ensure in particular that such officials, where appropriate in conjunction with officials of other departments which it authorises for the purpose:

- (a) have access to vineyards, wine-making and storage installations, installations for processing wine-sector products and vehicles for transporting those products;
- (b) have access to the commercial premises (or warehouses) and vehicles of anyone holding with a view to sale, marketing or transporting wine-sector products or products which may be intended for use in the wine sector;
- (c) may undertake an inventory of wine-sector products and substances or products which may be used for the preparation of such products;
- (d) may take samples of wine-sector products, substances or products which may be used for the preparation of such products and products held with a view to sale, marketing or transport;
- (e) may study accounting data and other documents of use in control procedures, and make copies or extracts thereof;
- (f) may take appropriate protective measures regarding the preparation, holding, transport, description, presentation and marketing of a wine-sector product or a product intended for use in the preparation of such a product, if there is reason to believe that there has been a serious infringement of Community provisions, in particular in the case of fraudulent treatment or risks to health.

CHAPTER II

Assistance between control bodies

Article 84

Assistance on request

1 Where a competent body of a Member State undertakes control activities on its territory, it may appeal for information from a competent body of any other Member State liable to be affected directly or indirectly. Where such a request is made the assistance shall be provided in a timely manner.

The Commission shall be notified whenever the product which is the subject of the controls referred to in the first subparagraph originates in a third country, and if the marketing of this product may be of specific interest to other Member States.

The body appealed to shall provide all such information as may enable the applicant body to carry out its duties.

2 Where reasoned application is made by the applicant body, the body appealed to shall perform special supervision or checks with a view to achieving the aims pursued, or shall take the necessary steps to ensure that such supervision or checks are performed.

3 The body appealed to shall act as though on its own behalf.

4 In agreement with the body appealed to, the applicant body may designate officials:

- a either to obtain, on the premises of the administrative authorities coming under the Member State in which the body appealed to is established, information relating to the application of the rules in the wine sector or to control activities, including the making of copies of transport and other documents or extracts from registers;
- b or to be present during operations requested under paragraph 2, after advising the body appealed to in good time before the start of those operations.

The copies referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph may be made only with the agreement of the body appealed to.

5 The officials of the body appealed to shall remain in charge of the control operations at all times.

6 The officials of the applicant body shall:

- a produce a written order indicating their identity and official position;
- b be accorded, without prejudice to the limits imposed by the Member State of the body appealed to on its own officials in carrying out the controls in question:
 - (i) the rights of access provided for in points (a) and (b) of Article 83;
 - (ii) the right to be informed of the results of controls carried out by the officials of the body appealed to under points (c) and (e) of Article 83;
- c in the course of checks, conduct themselves in a way compatible with the rules and professional practices which officials of the Member State are expected to follow, and observe professional confidentiality.

7 The requests referred to in this Article shall be forwarded to the body appealed to in the Member State in question via the liaison body of that Member State. The same procedure shall apply to:

- a replies to such requests;
- b communications concerning the application of paragraphs 2 and 4.

Notwithstanding the first subparagraph and in the interests of quicker and more effective cooperation between them, Member States may permit a competent body to:

- a make its request or communication directly to a competent body of another Member State;
- b reply directly to requests or communications received from a competent body of another Member State.

Article 85

Unsolicited assistance

A competent body of a Member State shall, via the liaison body under which it comes, notify the liaison body of the Member State concerned without delay, where it has grounds for suspicion or becomes aware that:

- (a) a product referred to in Article 1(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 does not comply with the wine-sector rules or has been the subject of fraudulent action to obtain or market such a product; and
- (b) this failure to comply with the rules is of specific interest to one or more other Member States and such as to lead to administrative measures or legal action.

Article 86

Common provisions

1 The information referred to in Article 84(1) and Article 85 shall be accompanied and supplemented as soon as possible by relevant documents and other evidence and a reference to any administrative measures or legal proceedings, and shall specifically cover:

- a the composition and organoleptic characteristics of the product in question;
- b the description and presentation of the product;
- c compliance or not with the rules laid down for producing and marketing the product.

2 The liaison bodies involved in a case for which the assistance procedure is initiated shall inform each other without delay of:

- a the progress of investigations;
- b any administrative or legal action taken subsequent to the operations concerned.

3 Travel costs incurred when implementing Article 84(2) and (4) shall be borne by:

- a the Member State which has appointed an official for the measures referred to in these paragraphs; or
- b the Community budget at the request of the liaison body of that Member State if the Commission has formally recognised in advance the Community interest of the control activity in question.

CHAPTER III

Analytical databank

Article 87

Purpose of the databank

- 1 An analytical databank for wine products shall be managed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).
- 2 The databank shall contain data obtained from isotopic analysis of the components of ethanol and water in wine products according to the reference methods of analysis referred to in Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.
- 3 The databank is to help harmonise the interpretation of the results obtained by the official laboratories of the Member States in applying the reference methods of analysis referred to in Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008.

Article 88

Samples

- 1 For the establishment of the analytical databank, Member States shall ensure the taking of samples of fresh grapes for analysis as well as their treatment and processing into wine in accordance with the instructions in Annex XVI.
- 2 The samples of fresh grapes shall be taken from vineyards situated in a wine-growing area of clearly defined soil type, situation, vine training system, variety, age and cultural practices.
- 3 The number of samples to be taken each year for the databank is set out in Annex XVII. The selection of samples must take account of the geographical situation of vineyards in the Member States listed in Annex XVII. Each year at least 25 % of the samples shall be taken from the same plots as in the previous year.
- 4 The samples shall be analysed by the methods referred to in Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 by laboratories designated by the Member States. The designated laboratories must meet the general criteria for the operation of testing laboratories set out in ISO/IEC 17025, and in particular must take part in a system of proficiency tests covering methods of isotopic analysis. The evidence of compliance with these criteria will be provided in writing to the JRC for the purpose of quality control and validation of the data provided.
- 5 An analysis report shall be drawn up in accordance with Annex XIX. A description sheet shall be drawn up for each sample in accordance with the questionnaire in Annex XVIII.
- 6 A copy of the report with the results and interpretation of the analyses along with a copy of the description sheet shall be sent to the JRC.
- 7 Member States and the JRC shall ensure that:
 - a data in the analytical databank are preserved;
 - b each of the samples is kept for at least three years from the date the sample is taken;
 - c the databank is used only for monitoring the application of Community and national wine legislation or for statistical or scientific purposes;

- d measures are applied to safeguard the data, in particular against theft and interference;
- f files are made available, without undue delay or cost, to those to whom they relate so that any inaccuracies can be rectified.

Article 89

Isotopic analyses

For a period ending on 31 July 2010, pending the setting up of the adequate analytical equipment, wine-producing Member States that acceded to the Community in 2004 or 2007 not equipped to carry out isotopic analysis shall send their wine samples to the JRC for analysis.

In this case, they may designate a competent body authorised to have access to the information on samples taken on their territory.

Article 90

Communication of results

1 The information contained in the databank shall be made available on request to the laboratories designated by the Member States for that purpose.

2 The JRC shall draw up and update on a yearly basis the list of the Member States laboratories designated for the preparation of samples and the measurements for the analytical databank.

3 In duly substantiated cases, the information referred to in paragraph 1, when representative, may be made available on request to other official bodies in the Member States.

4 Communication of information shall relate only to the relevant analytical data required to interpret an analysis carried out on a sample of comparable characteristics and origin. Any communication of information shall be accompanied by a reminder of the minimum requirements for the use of the databank.

Article 91

Compliance with procedures

Member States shall ensure that the results of isotopic analyses contained in their own databanks are obtained by analyzing samples taken and treated in accordance with this Chapter.

CHAPTER IV

Collection of samples for control purposes

Article 92

Request for collection of samples

- 1 In the context of the application of Chapter II, the officials of a competent body of a Member State may request a competent body of another Member State to collect samples in accordance with the relevant provisions of that Member State.
- 2 The applicant body shall hold the samples collected and shall determine inter alia the laboratory where they are to be analysed.
- 3 Samples shall be taken and treated in accordance with the instructions in Annex XX.

Article 93

Costs of collection, dispatch and analysis of samples

- 1 The costs incurred in taking, treating and dispatching a sample and in carrying out analytical and organoleptic tests shall be borne by the competent body of the Member State which asked for the sample to be taken. Such costs shall be calculated according to the rates applicable in the Member State in the territory of which the operations are carried out.
- 2 The costs incurred in sending the samples referred to in Article 89 shall be borne by the Community.

CHAPTER V

General provisions

Article 94

Conclusive force

The findings of the officials of a competent body of a Member State in the course of application of this Chapter may be invoked by the competent bodies of the other Member States. In such cases, they shall have no less value because of the fact that they do not come from the Member State in question.

Article 95

Persons subject to controls

- 1 Natural or legal persons and groups of such persons whose professional activities may be the subject of the controls referred to in this Regulation shall not obstruct such controls and shall be required to facilitate them at all times.
- 2 Cultivators of vines from which grapes are taken by officials of a competent body:

- a may not impede such collection in any way; and
- b shall provide these officials with all the information required under this Regulation.

TITLE VI

GENERAL, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 96

Payments to beneficiaries

Payments under Title II, with the exception of Article 9, and under Title V of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 shall be made in full to the beneficiaries.

By way of derogation from the first paragraph, Member States may decide to pay the support referred to in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 through insurance companies as intermediaries provided that:

- (a) the conditions referred to in Article 14(4) of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 are respected;
- (b) the amount of the aid is transferred in full to the producer;
- (c) the insurance company pays the aid to the producer either in advance or through a bank or a postal transfer within fifteen days after receiving the payment from the Member State.

The use of such intermediaries for payments shall be such as not to distort competitive conditions on the insurance market.

Payments shall be subject to prior checks as provided by the present Regulation, except for advance payments guaranteed by a security.

Article 97

Recovery of undue payments

Undue payments shall be recovered, with interest, from the beneficiaries concerned. The rules fixed in Article 73 of Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Implementation of administrative sanctions and recovery of unduly paid amounts are without prejudice to communication of irregularities to the Commission pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006⁽¹³⁾.

Article 98

National sanctions

Without prejudice to any sanctions set out in Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 or in this Regulation, Member States shall provide for the application of sanctions at national level in relation to irregularities committed in respect of requirements set out in Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 and in this Regulation which are effective, proportionate

and dissuasive so that they provide adequate protection for the Communities' financial interests.

Article 99

Artificially created situations

Without prejudice to any specific measures set out in Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 or in this Regulation, no payment shall be made in favour of beneficiaries for whom it is established that they artificially created the conditions required for obtaining such payments with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the measure concerned.

Article 100

Communications

1 Without prejudice to any specific provisions of this Regulation, the communications to be made under this Regulation shall be in the format set out in its Annexes, in the form of files created in a spreadsheet application program. They shall be transmitted to the Commission also in electronic form. Where a Member State compiles data on a regional basis, it shall send the Commission also a table summarising the data of the regions.

Communications not made by the specified means and in the specified format may be considered as not made at all, without prejudice to paragraph 4.

2 Where concerning a given table a Member State would have to communicate only zero values, it may choose not to fill in the table but simply communicate to the Commission that the given table is not relevant to it. This simplified communication shall take place by the same deadline as the one fixed for the table concerned.

3 Without prejudice to any specific provisions of this Regulation, Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are able to meet the deadlines for communications set out in this Regulation.

4 If a Member State fails to make a communication as required under Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 or this Regulation or if the communication appears incorrect in the light of objective facts in the Commission's possession, the Commission may suspend part or all of the monthly payments referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 as regards the wine sector until the communication is correctly made.

5 Member States shall retain the information recorded under this Regulation for at least 10 wine years following the one during which it was recorded.

6 The communications requested in this Regulation shall not prejudice the Member States' obligations laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) 357/79 on statistical surveys of areas under vines⁽¹⁴⁾.

Article 101

Obvious errors

Any communication, claim or request made to a Member State under Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 or this Regulation, including an aid application, may be adjusted at any time after its submission in cases of obvious errors recognised by the competent authority.

Article 102

Force majeure and exceptional circumstances

Where, under Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 or this Regulation, a sanction is to be imposed it shall not be imposed in cases of *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances within the meaning of Article 40(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003.

Article 103

Repeal and references

1 Regulations (EC) No 1227/2000, (EC) No 1623/2000, (EC) No 2729/2000 and (EC) No 883/2001 are repealed.

However,

- a the relevant rules set out in Regulations (EC) No 1227/2000 and (EC) No 1623/2000 shall continue to apply in so far as measures eligible under Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 have been commenced or undertaken before 1 August 2008;
- b Table 10 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1227/2000 shall continue to apply unless otherwise provided in an implementing regulation on the labelling and presentation of wines to be adopted on the basis of Article 63 of Regulation (EC) No 479/2008;
- c Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1623/2000 shall remain in force until 31 July 2012.

2 References to the repealed Regulations in accordance with paragraph 1 shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex XXII.

Article 104

Entry into force

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

It shall apply from 1 August 2008.

However, Article 2 and Chapter III of Title IV shall apply as from 30 June 2008.

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

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally adopted).

Done at Brussels, 27 June 2008.

For the Commission

Mariann FISCHER BOEL

Member of the Commission

- (1) OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p. 36.
- (2) OJ L 270, 21.10.2003, p. 1.
- (3) OJ L 205, 3.8.1985, p. 5. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1913/2006 (OJ L 365, 21.12.2006, p. 52).
- (4) OJ L 358, 16.12.2006, p. 3.
- (5) OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p. 36.
- (6) OJ L 58, 11.3.1993, p. 50.
- (7) OJ L 302, 19.10.1992, p. 1.
- (8) OJ L 256, 7.9.1987, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 275/2008 (OJ L 85, 27.3.2008, p. 3).
- (9) OJ L 105, 23.4.1983, p. 1.
- (10) OJ L 176, 29.6.2001, p. 14.
- (11) OJ L 141, 30.4.2004, p. 18.
- (12) OJ L 368, 23.12.2006, p. 74. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1396/2007 (OJ L 311, 29.11.2007, p. 3).
- (13) OJ L 355, 15.12.2006, p. 56.
- (14) OJ L 54, 5.3.1979, p. 124. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1791/2006 (OJ L 363, 20.12.2006, p. 1).