

II

(Non-legislative acts)

REGULATIONS

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 1220/2011

of 25 November 2011

amending Regulation (EC) No 867/2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards operators' organisations in the olive sector, their work programmes and the financing thereof

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) ⁽¹⁾, and in particular the third subparagraph of Article 103(2) in conjunction with Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In the light of experience gained from implementing the work programmes of operators' organisations in the olive sector, certain amendments should be made to Commission Regulation (EC) No 867/2008 ⁽²⁾.

(2) In order to ensure better implementation of Article 103 of Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 and to ensure that the financial interests of the Union are protected where producer organisations are beneficiaries of rural development measures under Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) ⁽³⁾, provision should be made for the approval of operators' organisations in the olive sector to be immediately refused, suspended or withdrawn if the latter have been penalised under those Regulations.

(3) With regard to market monitoring and administrative management, it is useful to focus on subjects linked to

measures planned under the work programmes of the operators' organisations, whereas in the field of improving the production quality of olive oil and table olives, for reasons of effectiveness, provision should be made for new types of technical assistance.

(4) To improve consistency in the activities which are eligible for Union funding, it is desirable, with regard to controlling olive fly, to restrict financing to those measures provided for in point (b)(iii) of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 867/2008.

(5) In consideration of the experience gained, it is necessary to increase the minimum percentage of Union funding allocated to reducing the environmental impact of olive cultivation in order to reflect the important developments in this area. Similarly, in order to make the best possible use of the resources allocated to work programmes, there should be a reduction in the general expenses element of expenditure on implementation.

(6) Administrative procedures should be simplified where amendments to a programme involve substituting one measure with another and where the planned budget for each measure is less than EUR 10 000 but where the initial objective of the programme remains unchanged.

(7) To facilitate the implementation of programmes, the conditions for the release of securities linked to advances should be made more flexible provided that the eligible expenditure has been implemented and verified.

(8) A new deadline should be set for the Member States concerned to notify the Commission of national measures taken to implement this Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 299, 16.11.2007, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 237, 4.9.2008, p. 5.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 277, 21.10.2005, p. 1.

(9) Regulation (EC) No 867/2008 should be amended accordingly.

(10) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 867/2008 is amended as follows:

(1) in Article 3(5) the following subparagraph (c) is added:

'(c) has been penalised for infringing the scheme to fund the activities of operators' organisations provided for in Article 103 of Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 or for an infringement of the application of a rural development measure provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (*).

(* OJ L 277, 21.10.2005, p. 1.;

(2) Article 5(1) is amended as follows:

(a) point (a)(ii) is replaced by the following:

'(ii) drawing up studies on subjects linked to the other measures provided for in the work programme of the operators' organisation concerned;'

(b) point (c) shall be amended as follows:

(i) point (i) is replaced by the following:

'(i) improving conditions for growing, harvesting, delivering and storing olives prior to processing, in accordance with the technical specifications laid down by the competent national authority;'

(ii) point (iii) shall be replaced by the following:

'(iii) improving conditions for storage and use of the residues of olive oil and table olive production and improving olive oil bottling conditions;'

(iii) point (iv) shall be replaced by the following:

'(iv) technical assistance for production, for the olive processing industry, for producers of table olives, for mills and for packaging, relating to aspects linked to product quality;'

(iv) point (vi) shall be replaced by the following:

'(vi) training tasters to carry out organoleptic checks on virgin olive oils and on table olives;'

(3) in Article 6, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

'In each Member State a minimum of 30 % of the Union funding available under Article 103 of Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 shall be allocated to the area of activity referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 5(1) of this Regulation, and a minimum of 12 % of that Union funding shall be allocated to the area referred to in point (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 5(1).;'

(4) in Article 7(1), the following point (g) is added:

'(g) measures and activities relating to controlling olive fly with the exception of measures provided for in point (b)(iii) of Article 5(1).;'

(5) point (d) of the second subparagraph of Article 8(2) is replaced by the following:

'(d) the planned expenditure, broken down by measure and by area of measure as referred to in Article 5(1), with details for each 12-month period from the date of approval of the work programme, distinguishing the overheads, which must not exceed 5 % of the total, and the other main types of costs;'

(6) in Article 10, the following paragraph 6 is added:

'6. By way of derogation from paragraphs 2 and 4, where amendments to a work programme involve substituting one measure with another measure in the same area, and where the planned budget for each measure is less than EUR 10 000, the operators' organisation must notify the competent authority two months before the new measure is implemented. If the competent authority does not object within one month of notification, the amendment shall be deemed to have been accepted. The notification shall be accompanied by supporting documentation specifying the aim, nature and implications of the proposed amendment and shall demonstrate that the amendment concerned does not alter the initial objective of the programme in question;'

(7) Article 11(5) is replaced by the following text:

'5. By a date to be determined by the Member State but no later than the end of each year of implementation of the work programme, the operators' organisations concerned may lodge an application for release of the security referred to in paragraph 4 up to an amount equal to all the expenditure under the initial instalment actually carried out and verified by the Member State. The Member State shall lay down which supporting documents shall accompany this application and check them and shall release the securities corresponding to the expenditure concerned no later than in the course of the second month following that in which the application is lodged.;

(8) in Article 18(1), the introductory sentence shall be replaced by the following:

'1. No later than 31 January following each period of three years beginning on 1 April in accordance with Article 8, the Member States producing olive oil shall notify the Commission of the national measures implementing this Regulation, and in particular those relating to:'.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 25 November 2011.

For the Commission
The President
José Manuel BARROSO
