

## II

*(Preparatory Acts)*

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

**Opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece**

The text referred to the Committee has been published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 84 of 3 April 1982, page 5.

## A. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE OPINION

On 17 March 1982 the Council referred the abovementioned proposal to the Economic and Social Committee in accordance with Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

## B. OPINION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Committee prepared its opinion on the above matter at its 199th plenary session held in Brussels on 30 June and 1 July 1982.

The full text of the opinion is as follows:

## THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the request made by the Council of the European Communities on 17 March 1982 for an opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece,

Having regard to the decision taken by its Bureau on 27 April 1982, instructing the Section for Agriculture to prepare the Committee's work on the matter,

Having regard to the opinion issued by the Section for Agriculture at its 235th meeting held on 3 June 1982,

Having regard to the report submitted by the rapporteur, Mr Dassis,

Having regard to the discussions at its 199th plenary session held on 30 June and 1 July 1982,

## HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING OPINION

unanimously:

1. The Committee endorses the Commission proposal, subject to the following comments,

2. The Committee observes that the proposed Regulation embodies a set of measures, constituting a common measure within the meaning of Article 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 and aiming to accelerate agricultural development in 22 regions of mainland Greece. These measures are to be seen as reinforcing the common structural policy, which applies in its entirety to Greece (including the provisions concerning the processing and marketing of farm products) <sup>(1)</sup>,

3. The Commission estimates that the proposed programme involves a total cost for the EAGGF, Guidance Section, of 197.9 million ECU; 34 million ECU of this total fall within the 1980/1984 five-year allocation and are already available.

In view of the scale of requirements and the number of regions concerned, the Committee wonders whether this sum can be considered adequate.

Since the proposed common measure is to span five years, it should be possible, if necessary, to step up the amount envisaged.

<sup>(1)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77, OJ No L 51, 23. 2. 1977.

4. The Committee would stress that the success of the various components of the Commission programme will depend to a great extent on back-up management schemes.

It regrets that the Commission proposal does not emphasize this aspect and recommends that provision be made for funding such schemes.

5. On a number of occasions the Committee has pointed out that agricultural cooperatives and voluntary associations are a particularly suitable means of boosting agricultural development in regions hampered by major structural difficulties.

The proposed action programme should therefore encourage the setting-up of agricultural cooperatives or associations, where such bodies do not exist, besides furthering the development and activities of existing cooperatives and associations.

6. The Committee has reiterated in the past <sup>(1)</sup> its plea to give maximum publicity to the financial aid available under the various Community financial instruments so as to bring home to less-favoured regions the potential benefits of membership of a Community which expresses its solidarity in practice as well as theory.

In the Committee's view, the Regulation should require the Greek Government to take appropriate measures to draw the attention of the general public to Community-funded projects, e.g. by erecting hoardings on such sites.

It therefore asks the Commission to amplify the proposed Regulation by suitable provisions framed along the lines, for instance, of Article 15 of the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 724/75 establishing a European Regional Development Fund.

Done at Brussels, 30 June 1982.

*The Chairman  
of the  
Economic and Social Committee*  
Tomàs ROSEINGRAVE

---

<sup>(1)</sup> See ESC opinion of 29 April 1981 on the revision of the ERDF Regulation (OJ No C 185, 27. 7. 1981).