

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 May 1963

setting up a Joint Advisory Committee on Social Questions affecting Paid Agricultural Workers

(63/326/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY,

Whereas under point V of its final resolution, the Agricultural Conference of Member States which met at Stresa from 3 July to 12 July 1958 noted with satisfaction 'the intention' expressed by the Commission to maintain close and continuous co-operation with representative bodies in the agricultural industry, in particular for the implementation of the tasks provided for in this resolution';

Whereas under point 22 of its resolution on the social conditions of paid agricultural workers, adopted on 8 March 1961, the European Parliament requested that an Advisory Committee on Social Questions arising in Agriculture be set up and organised on a joint basis;

Whereas in its Opinion of 6 May 1960, under point 9 concerning paid agricultural workers, the Economic and Social Committee mentioned a number of social questions which make consultation with representatives of paid agricultural workers and agricultural employers essential;

Whereas it is necessary that the Commission obtain the views of representative bodies in the agricultural industry on social questions arising in agriculture and that the two sides directly concerned therewith should be able to participate in formulating the views requested by the Commission;

Whereas the Advisory Conference on Social Aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy, organised by the Commission in Rome from 28 September to 4 October 1961, adopted the conclusions proposed by its Working Parties and in particular those of Working Party II requesting the Commission to refer 'social questions arising in agriculture to an Advisory Committee organised on a European level consisting

of equal numbers of representatives of agricultural employers and paid agricultural workers', and to 'discuss the work to be done by such Committee with the representative bodies concerned';

Whereas the outcome of such discussion was that the Joint Committee should enable the Commission to obtain the views of the representative bodies of agricultural employers and paid agricultural workers on social questions of concern to them on the two sides of industry;

Whereas the various representative bodies in the agricultural industry have formed organisations at Community level;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. There shall be attached to the Commission a Joint Advisory Committee on Social Questions affecting Paid Agricultural Workers, hereinafter called 'the Committee'.

2. Paid agricultural workers and agricultural employers shall be represented on the Committee.

Article 2

The Committee may be consulted by the Commission on all social questions of concern to the two sides, employers and employees, of the agricultural industry.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee acting jointly may draw the attention of the Commission to the desirability of consulting the Committee on any matter within the latter's competence on which its opinion has not been sought.

Article 3

1. The Committee shall consist of thirty-four members.
2. Seats on the Committee shall be apportioned as follows:
 - to paid agricultural workers, 17;
 - to agricultural employers, 17.

Article 4

1. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Commission, on proposals from the following representative bodies set up at Community level: Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the European Economic Community (COPA), Working Party of the European Federations of Agricultural Workers of the European TU Secretariat of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Working Party on 'Agriculture and Food' of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU).
2. The term of office for a Committee member shall be three years. His appointment may be renewed. The duties performed shall be unremunerated.
3. The list of members shall be published for information by the Commission in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Article 5

At the request of one of the organisations represented, the Chairman may invite a representative of the central body of one of the representative bodies in the agricultural industry to attend meetings. He may also invite any person with special qualifications in a subject on the agenda to attend in an expert capacity.

Experts shall be present only at the discussion of those questions on account of which they were invited.

Article 6

1. The Committee shall meet when convened by the Commission.
2. Representatives of the Commission departments concerned shall take part in the Committee's meetings.

Article 7

Every year the Committee shall, by a two-thirds' majority of members present, elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among its members. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman may not both come from the same side of the industry; they shall be chosen alternately from the two sides represented.

The Commission shall provide secretarial services for the Committee.

Article 8

An Opinion delivered by the Committee shall not be valid unless two-thirds of the members are present.

The Committee shall discuss only matters on which the Commission has requested an Opinion. Where the Opinion sought is unanimously agreed by the Committee, the latter shall formulate joint conclusions and attach them to the report of its proceedings forwarded to the Commission.

Otherwise, the opinions expressed by both sides represented shall be included in that report.

Article 9

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 214 of the Treaty, persons present at the meetings of the Committee shall not disclose information which has come to their knowledge through the work of the Committee, where the Commission informs the Committee that the Opinion requested is on a matter of a confidential nature.

In such cases, only members of the Committee and representatives of the departments of the Commission shall be present at the meetings.

Article 10

After hearing the Committee, this Decision may be amended by the Commission in the light of experience.

Done at Brussels, 17 May 1963.

For the Commission
The President
Walter HALLSTEIN