

COMMISSION DECISION

of 19 December 1963

setting up an Advisory Committee on Social Questions Affecting Farmers

(64/18/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES,

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... trade organisations, in particular for the implementation of the tasks provided for in this resolution';

Whereas under point 4 of its Opinion of 6 May 1960 the Economic and Social Committee requested the Commission to ensure the active and regular participation of interested trade organisations in the formulation and implementation of the common agricultural policy as regards its theory and practice, and in particular of agricultural social policy;

Whereas it is necessary that the Commission obtain the views of the various sections of the industry on social questions arising in agriculture and whereas all sections directly affected by those questions should have the possibility of participating in the formulation of opinions 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 consisting of equal numbers of representatives of organisations set up at European level by agricultural employers and paid agricultural workers' and to 'discuss with the interested organisations the work to be done by such Committee';

Whereas the outcome of this discussion between the Commission and the trade organisations was that

social questions affecting agricultural employers and paid agricultural workers as the two sides of the industry should be discussed within a joint Committee set up by the Commission Decision of 17 May 1963¹ and that social questions affecting farmers and members of their families working on the farm can more suitably be discussed within a Committee set up specially for that purpose on which seats would be apportioned differently, the two Committees being required to consider questions both in themselves and in relation to their effect on the agricultural population as a whole;

Whereas the various representative bodies in the agricultural industry and those of rural families have formed organisations at Community level;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. There shall be attached to the Commission an Advisory Committee on Social Questions Affecting Farmers (hereinafter called the 'Committee').
2. Farmers, paid agricultural workers and rural families shall be represented on the Committee.

Article 2

The Committee may be consulted by the Commission on any social question affecting farmers and members of their families working on the farm, all such questions being considered both in themselves and in relation to their effect on the agricultural population as a whole.

The Chairman of the Committee may, in particular at the request of at least five members of the

¹ OJ No 80, 29.5.1963, p. 1534/63.

Committee, indicate to the Commission the desirability of consulting the Committee on any matter within the latter's competence but on which its opinion has not been sought.

Article 3

1. The Committee shall consist of twenty-three members.
2. Seats on the Committee shall be apportioned as follows:
 - seventeen to farmers' representatives;
 - five to representatives of paid agricultural workers;
 - one to a representative of rural families.

Article 4

1. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Commission on proposals from the following organisations set up at Community level:

Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the European Economic Community (COPA), Working Party of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers of the European TU Secretariat of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (IFCTU), Working Party on 'Agriculture and Food' of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU), European Secretariat of the International Union of Family Organisations, 'Rural Families' Section.

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 by the Commission for information purposes in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Article 5

At the request of any of the groups represented, the Chairman may invite a representative of the central body of one of the organisations represented to be present at meetings. He may likewise request any person with special qualifications in a subject on the agenda to take part in an expert capacity in meetings of the Committee.

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

Article 6

1. The Committee shall be convened by the Commission and shall meet at Commission headquarters.
2. Representatives of the Commission departments concerned shall take part in meetings of the Committee.

Article 7

1. Every year the Committee shall, by a two-thirds majority of members present, elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
2. Secretarial services shall be provided for the Committee by the Commission.

Article 8

The Committee shall discuss matters on which the Commission has requested an opinion. No vote shall be taken.

The views expressed by each of the groups represented shall be included in a report of the proceedings forwarded to the Commission.

In the event of unanimous agreement being reached in the Committee on the opinion to be given, the Committee shall formulate joint conclusions and attach them to the report.

Article 9

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

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

Article 10

After hearing the Committee, the Commission may amend this Decision in the light of experience.

Done at Brussels, 19 December 1963.

For the Commission

The President

Walter HALLSTEIN