



Notification Number: 1999/435/F

- Article 87 of Agricultural Guideline Law n°99-574 of 9 July 1999. - Draft order on the use of the term 'mountain'.

Date received : 15/09/1999
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Issue of detailed opinion by : Commission

Message

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Message 002

Communication from the Commission - SG(1999) D/52103

Directive 98/34/EC

Translation of the message 001

Notification: 1999/435/F

(MSG: 199902103.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 002 IND 1999 0435 F EN 16-12-1999 15-09-1999 F NOTIF 16-12-1999

2. Member State

FRANCE

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4. Notification Number

1999/0435/F

5. Title

- Article 87 of Agricultural Guideline Law n°99-574 of 9 July 1999.

- Draft order on the use of the term 'mountain'.



6. Products Concerned

Foodstuffs other than wines and non-alimentary and unprocessed agricultural products originating in France.

7. Notification Under Another Act

No.

8. Main Content

Article 87 of the Agricultural Guideline Law stipulates that the term 'mountain' can only be used for foodstuffs other than wines and non-alimentary and unprocessed agricultural products originating in France if prior administrative authorisation has been granted to this effect.

The draft order implementing this article defines the procedures for issuing this authorisation, as well as the conditions which the products concerned must fulfil. It notably stipulates that the geographical site of production, manufacturing and packaging must be located in a mountain area, pursuant to Article 18 of Regulation (EC) 1257/99.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The aim of these texts is to strictly control the use of the term 'mountain' in relation to products originating in France, in order to improve the exploitation and ease of identification of products from mountain areas, while continuing to preserve the highly positive way in which they are perceived by consumers.

They amend the French system previously in force (Article 6 of Law n°95-95 of 1st February 1995 on the Modernisation of Agriculture) and have the twin intention of decentralising authorisations and simplifying procedures.

They draw on the judgement passed by the Court of Justice of the European Communities on 7 May 1997 (records C-321 to 324/94).

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- Law n°85-30 of 9 January 1985, amended, (codified in Article L. 644 of the Rural Code) ;
- Order n°88-194 and n°88-195 of 26 February 1988 ;
- Order n°89-369 of 6 June 1989 ;
- Order n°96-193 of 12 March 1996.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

Yes.

12. Grounds for the Emergency

The French authorities view the establishment of this new system as a priority, with a view to preserving the potential for exploitation of products from mountain areas and bolstering the development of agriculture and foodstuffs in mountain areas.

Its adoption, which had been delayed pending the conclusions of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, is now eagerly awaited by economic operators.



13. Confidentiality

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14. Fiscal measures

No.

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