COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1793/2003

of 13 October 2003

fixing the minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 'Vinho verde' quality wines psr originating in Portuguese wine-growing zone C I a) for the 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 wine years

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 806/2003 [2], and in particular Article 58 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Annex VI(E)(3) to Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 fixes the minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of quality wines psr at 8,5 % vol. for zone C I a).

(2) By derogation from that limit, Commission Regulation (EC) No 2358/2000 [3] fixes the minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of quality wines psr originating in Portuguese zone C I a) at 7,5 % vol. Regulation (EC) No 2358/2000 expires at the end of the 2002/2003 wine year.

(3) Given that the special conditions for traditional wine-growing and vine selection in Portuguese zone C I a) do not enable 'Vinho verde' quality wine psr to reach the minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 8,5 % vol., a new derogation should be laid down for that wine for the 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 wine years.

(4) The measure provided for in this Regulation is in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Wine,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

By derogation from the limits laid down for the alcoholic strengths by volume in Annex VI(E)(3) to Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999, the natural alcoholic strength by volume of the quality wines psr originating in Portuguese zone C I a) bearing the name 'Vinho verde' for the 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 wine years may be lower than 8,5 % vol. but may not be lower than 8 % vol.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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, 13 October 2003.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 179, 14.7.1999, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 272, 25.10.2000, p. 16.