II.1.9 Control of the sugar content of grapes

Definition:

An increase in the natural sugar content of grape berries by viticultural techniques.

Objective:

To achieve an optimal composition of the crop by moderating yield and controlling vigour.

Prescriptions:

The objective can be reached by a choice of different factors such as:

a) Soil and climate,

b) Varieties, clones and rootstocks,

c) Optimum planting density and vineyard management,

and by the application of the following viticultural practices:

- Balanced loading of buds on the vine,
- Maintenance and moderate fertilisation of the soil,
- Performing the operations of the annual vegetative period of the vine at an opportune time, without excessive trimming,
- Supplementary irrigation in dry zones,
- Occasional thinning of bunches,
- Reasonable use of pesticides,
- Harvest at optimal maturity,
- Natural raisining on the vine, late harvesting.

Recommendation of OIV:

Admitted