

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1418/2004**of 4 August 2004****determining the groups of high-quality varieties exempt from application of the quota buyback programme in raw tobacco for the 2004 harvest**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in raw tobacco⁽¹⁾, and in particular the sixth indent of Article 14a thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 34(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2848/98 of 22 December 1998 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 as regards the premium scheme, production quotas and the specific aid to be granted to producer groups in the raw tobacco sector⁽²⁾, the Commission must determine, on the basis of proposals from the Member States, which sensitive production areas and/or groups of high-quality varieties are to be exempt from the quota buyback programme.
- (2) Some Member States have asked for a number of high-quality varieties to be exempted from quota buyback for the 2004 harvest. These groups of high-quality varieties should therefore be determined for the 2004 harvest.

(3) As Regulation (EC) No 2848/98 requires Member States to make public their intention to sell from 1 November, this Regulation should apply from 1 November 2004.

(4) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Tobacco,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The quantities of groups of high-quality varieties exempt from the quota buyback programme for the 2004 harvest are as follows:

- (a) in France:
- Group III 2 576,480 tonnes;
- (b) in Portugal:
- Group I 1 231,000 tonnes,
 - Group II 218,000 tonnes.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 November 2004.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 4 August 2004.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 215, 30.7.1992, p. 70. Regulation last amended by Regulation (EC) No 864/2004 (OJ L 161, 30.4.2004, p. 48).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.1998, p. 17. Regulation last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1983/2002 (OJ L 306, 8.11.2002, p. 8).