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I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 183/2004
of 2 February 2004
establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 of 21 December 1994 on detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1947/2002 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 4(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 lays down, pursuant to the outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the criteria whereby the Commission fixes the standard values for imports from third countries, in respect of the products and periods stipulated in the Annex thereto.

- (2) In compliance with the above criteria, the standard import values must be fixed at the levels set out in the Annex to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The standard import values referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 shall be fixed as indicated in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 February 2004.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2004.

For the Commission
J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ
Agriculture Director-General

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 337, 24.12.1994, p. 66.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 299, 1.11.2002, p. 17.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 2 February 2004 establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

(EUR/100 kg)

CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0702 00 00	052	115,6
	204	39,3
	212	127,9
	999	94,3
0707 00 05	052	139,9
	204	46,6
	999	93,3
0709 10 00	220	13,5
	999	13,5
0709 90 70	052	107,3
	204	54,1
	999	80,7
0805 10 10, 0805 10 30, 0805 10 50	052	50,7
	204	52,2
	212	45,9
	220	51,0
	448	32,8
	624	81,3
	999	52,3
0805 20 10	052	71,8
	204	98,2
	999	85,0
0805 20 30, 0805 20 50, 0805 20 70, 0805 20 90	052	79,6
	204	85,1
	220	82,7
	464	77,8
	600	74,0
	624	69,0
	662	38,0
	999	72,3
0805 50 10	052	68,0
	600	58,3
	999	63,2
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	052	73,2
	060	55,3
	400	89,2
	404	86,9
	720	69,9
	999	74,9
0808 20 50	060	56,2
	388	95,1
	400	78,4
	528	101,2
	720	45,5
	999	75,3

⁽¹⁾ Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2020/2001 (OJ L 273, 16.10.2001, p. 6). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 184/2004**of 2 February 2004****terminating the system of retrospective surveillance in relation to certain steel products established by Regulation (EC) No 1695/2002**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3285/94 of 22 December 1994 on common rules for imports and repealing Regulation (EC) No 518/94 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 2474/2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 21 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 519/94 of 7 March 1994 on common rules for imports from certain third countries and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 1765/82, (EEC) No 1766/82 and (EEC) No 3420/83 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 427/2003 ⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 18 thereof,

After consultations within the Advisory Committee established under Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 3285/94 and of Regulation (EC) No 519/94 respectively,

Whereas:

PROCEDURE

- (1) On 27 September 2002, following a full investigation in relation to twenty one steel products, the Commission found that the trends in imports of certain steel products threatened to cause injury to the Community producers, and that it was in the interests of the Community to establish a system of retrospective surveillance. A system of retrospective surveillance was therefore established by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1695/2002 ⁽⁵⁾ in

relation to 14 steel products, namely electrical sheets (other than GOES), metallic coated sheets, organic coated sheet, tin mill products, quarto plates, wide flats, non alloy merchant bars and light sections, alloy merchant bars and light sections, rebars, stainless bars and light shapes, stainless wire rod, stainless steel wire, gas pipes and hollow sections (all as more particularly described in Annex 1 to the aforementioned regulation).

- (2) In recital 64 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1695/2002, the Commission recalled that the surveillance measures should be in place for the same duration as the definitive safeguard measures on certain steel products imposed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1694/2002 ⁽⁶⁾. Those definitive safeguard measures were terminated with effect from 8 December 2003 by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2142/2003 ⁽⁷⁾. In consequence, the surveillance measures should now be terminated,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1695/2002 is hereby repealed.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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, 2 February 2004.

For the Commission

Pascal LAMY

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 349, 31.12.1994, p. 53.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 286, 11.11.2000, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 67, 10.3.1994, p. 89.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 65, 8.3.2003, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 261, 28.9.2002, p. 124.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 261, 28.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 321, 6.12.2003, p. 11.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 185/2004**of 2 February 2004****amending Regulation (EC) No 94/2002 laying down detailed rules for applying Council Regulation (EC) No 2826/2000 on information and promotion actions for agricultural products on the internal market**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2826/2000 of 19 December 2000 on information and promotion actions for agricultural products on the internal market ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 94/2002 ⁽²⁾ provides for the drawing up of lists of themes and products for which information and/or promotion measures may be carried out.
- (2) Council Regulation (EC) No 1907/1990 of 26 June 1990 on certain marketing standards for eggs ⁽³⁾ requires, *inter alia*, that eggs for human consumption be marked with a code indicating the producer and allowing identification of the type of farming, as from 1 January 2004.
- (3) It would be useful to inform consumers about these new rules on the marking of eggs.
- (4) Eggs for human consumption should therefore be included in the list of products which may be covered by information and/or promotion measures, and general guidelines should be defined for the campaigns to be carried out in this sector.
- (5) Taking account of the date for drawing up these guidelines, it will not be possible to comply with the dates set for transmitting and approving the first series of programmes presented in 2004 for eggs intended for human consumption. In view of the need to inform consumers as soon as possible, a special deadline should be set for transmitting and approving that first series.
- (6) Regulation (EC) No 94/2002 should be amended accordingly.

- (7) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion delivered at the joint meeting of the management committees on agricultural product promotion,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 94/2002 is hereby amended as follows:

1. in the second subparagraph of Article 5(1), the following is added:

'The first series of programmes relating to eggs for human consumption to be submitted in 2004 shall be received by the Member State concerned no later than 29 February 2004.';
2. Article 7 is amended as follows:
 - (a) in the second subparagraph of paragraph 1, the following is added:

'The first series of programmes relating to eggs for human consumption to be submitted in 2004 shall be notified to the Commission no later than 31 March 2004.';
 - (b) in the second subparagraph of paragraph 3, the following is added:

'The first series of programmes relating to eggs intended for human consumption to be submitted in 2004 shall be decided on by the Commission no later than 31 May 2004.';
3. in Annex I(b), the following indent is added:

— Eggs for human consumption.'
4. The text contained in the Annex to this Regulation is added to Annex III.

*Article 2*This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.⁽¹⁾ OJ L 328, 23.12.2000, p. 2.⁽²⁾ OJ L 17, 19.1.2002, p. 20. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 497/2003 (OJ L 74, 20.3.2003, p. 4).⁽³⁾ OJ L 173, 6.7.1990, p. 5. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2052/2003 (OJ L 305, 22.11.2003, p. 1).

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2004.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

'EGGS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

1. OVERALL ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

From 1 January 2004, eggs intended for human consumption shall be stamped on the shell with a code identifying the producer and the system employed to rear the laying hens. This code shall be composed of a number identifying the farming method (0 = organic, 1 = free range, 2 = barn, 3 = cage), the ISO code of the Member State where the production centre is situated and a number allocated to the production centre by the relevant authority.

2. GOALS

- To inform the consumer of the new standards for marking eggs and fully explain the meaning of the code printed on eggs.
- To provide information on egg-production systems by means of the code printed on eggs.
- To provide information about existing traceability systems.

3. TARGET GROUPS

- Consumers and distributors.
- Opinion leaders.

4. MAIN MESSAGES

- To publicise and explain the new code printed on eggs in compliance with Directive 2002/4/EC, and the characteristics of the different categories of eggs to which this code refers.

5. MAIN CHANNELS

- Electronic channel (website, etc.).
- Printed material (brochures, leaflets, etc.).
- Information at sales points.
- Advertising in the press and in food magazines, women's magazines etc.
- Relations with the media.

6. DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

12 to 24 months.

7. INDICATIVE BUDGET

EUR 4 million.'

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 186/2004**of 2 February 2004****amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 and Regulation (EC) No 2571/97 as regards the combined nomenclature codes for sweet biscuits, waffles and wafers**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

(5) These amendments should apply at the same time as Regulation (EC) No 1789/2003.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

(6) Regulations (EC) No 1255/1999 and (EC) No 2571/97 must therefore be amended.

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in milk and milk products ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Articles 10, 15 and 31(14) thereof,

(7) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Milk and Milk Products,

Whereas:

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

(1) Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 provides for the grant of an export refund for certain products falling within the scope of the Regulation, if they are exported in the form of the goods listed in Annex II thereto.

Article 1

The following line is deleted from Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999:

(2) Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2571/97 of 15 December 1997 on the sale of butter at reduced prices and the granting of aid for cream, butter and concentrated butter for use in the manufacture of pastry products, ice-cream and other foodstuffs ⁽²⁾, refers to the CN codes of the end products eligible for the measures provided for under that Regulation.

'1905 90 40	--- Waffles and wafers with a water content exceeding 10 % by weight'
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(3) As a result of the adoption of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1789/2003 ⁽³⁾, which amends Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff ⁽⁴⁾, amendments to the combined nomenclature have been made in the case of certain products.*Article 2*

In Article 4(1), formula A, point A1 of Regulation (EC) No 2571/97, the CN codes '1905 30, 1905 90 40' are replaced by '1905 31, 1905 32'.

(4) Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 2571/97 must be amended accordingly.

Article 3⁽¹⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 48. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1787/2003 (OJ L 270, 21.10.2003, p. 121).⁽²⁾ OJ L 350, 20.12.1997, p. 3. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1851/2001 (OJ L 253, 21.9.2001, p. 16).⁽³⁾ OJ L 281, 30.10.2003, p. 1.⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 256, 7.9.1987, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1949/2003 (OJ L 287, 5.11.2003, p. 15).This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2004.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2004.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 187/2004**of 2 February 2004****fixing Community producer and import prices for carnations and roses with a view to the application of the arrangements governing imports of certain floricultural products originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 of 21 December 1987 fixing conditions for the application of preferential customs duties on imports of certain flowers originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1300/97 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5(2)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

Pursuant to Article 2(2) and Article 3 of abovementioned Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87, Community import and producer prices are fixed each fortnight for uniflorous (bloom) carnations, multiflorous (spray) carnations, large-flowered roses and small-flowered roses and apply for two-weekly periods. Pursuant to Article 1b of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 700/88 of 17 March 1988 laying down detailed rules for the application of the arrangements for the import into the Community of certain floricultural products originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and the West Bank and the

Gaza Strip ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2062/97 ⁽⁴⁾, those prices are determined for fortnightly periods on the basis of weighted prices provided by the Member States. Those prices should be fixed immediately so the customs duties applicable can be determined. To that end, provision should be made for this Regulation to enter into force immediately,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Community producer and import prices for uniflorous (bloom) carnations, multiflorous (spray) carnations, large-flowered roses and small-flowered roses as referred to in Article 1b of Regulation (EEC) No 700/88 for a fortnightly period shall be as set out in the Annex.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 February 2004.

It shall apply from 4 to 17 February 2004.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2004.

For the Commission

J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ

Agriculture Director-General

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 382, 31.12.1987, p. 22.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 177, 5.7.1997, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 72, 18.3.1988, p. 16.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 289, 22.10.1997, p. 1.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 2 February 2004 fixing Community producer and import prices for carnations and roses with a view to the application of the arrangements governing imports of certain floricultural products originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

(EUR/100 pieces)

Period: from 4 to 17 February 2004				
Community producer price	Uniflorous (bloom) carnations	Multiflorous (spray) carnations	Large-flowered roses	Small-flowered roses
	13,06	11,47	44,93	17,05
Community import prices	Uniflorous (bloom) carnations	Multiflorous (spray) carnations	Large-flowered roses	Small-flowered roses
Israel	—	—	—	—
Morocco	—	—	—	—
Cyprus	—	—	—	—
Jordan	4,73	—	—	—
West Bank and Gaza Strip	7,75	8,00	—	—

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 188/2004**of 2 February 2004****suspending the preferential customs duties and re-establishing the Common Customs Tariff duty on imports of uniflorous (bloom) carnations originating in Jordan**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 of 21 December 1987 fixing conditions for the application of preferential customs duties on imports of certain flowers originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan and Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1300/97 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5(2)(b) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 lays down the conditions for applying a preferential duty on large-flowered roses, small-flowered roses, uniflorous (bloom) carnations and multiflorous (spray) carnations within the limit of tariff quotas opened annually for imports into the Community of fresh cut flowers.

(2) Council Regulation (EC) No 747/2001 ⁽³⁾, as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 209/2003 ⁽⁴⁾, opens and provides for the administration of Community tariff quotas for cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Malta, Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively.

(3) Commission Regulation (EC) No 187/2004 ⁽⁵⁾ fixes the Community producer and import prices for carnations and roses for the application of the import arrangements.

(4) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 700/88 ⁽⁶⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2062/97 ⁽⁷⁾, lays down the detailed rules for the application of the arrangements.

(5) On the basis of prices recorded pursuant to Regulations (EEC) No 4088/87 and (EEC) No 700/88, it must be concluded that the conditions laid down in Article 2(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 for suspension of the preferential customs duty are met for uniflorous (bloom) carnations originating in Jordan; the Customs duty should be re-established.

(6) The quota for the products in question covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2004. As a result, the suspension of the preferential duty and the reintroduction of the Common Customs Tariff duty apply up to the end of that period at the latest.

(7) In between meetings of the Management Committee for Live Plants and Floriculture Products, the Commission must adopt such measures,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For imports of uniflorous (bloom) carnations (CN code ex 0603 10 20) originating in Jordan, the preferential customs duty fixed by Regulation (EC) No 747/2001 is hereby suspended and the Common Customs Tariff duty is hereby re-established.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 4 February 2004.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 382, 31.12.1987, p. 22.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 177, 5.7.1997, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 109, 19.4.2001, p. 2.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 28, 4.2.2003, p. 30.

⁽⁵⁾ See page 8 of this Official Journal.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 72, 18.3.1988, p. 16.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 289, 22.10.1997, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2004.

For the Commission

J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ
Agriculture Director-General

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 189/2004**of 2 February 2004****suspending the preferential customs duties and re-establishing the Common Customs Tariff duty on imports of multiflorous (spray) carnations originating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 of 21 December 1987 fixing conditions for the application of preferential customs duties on imports of certain flowers originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan and Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1300/97 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5(2)(b) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 lays down the conditions for applying a preferential duty on large-flowered roses, small-flowered roses, uniflorous (bloom) carnations and multiflorous (spray) carnations within the limit of tariff quotas opened annually for imports into the Community of fresh cut flowers.

(2) Council Regulation (EC) No 747/2001 ⁽³⁾, as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 786/2002 ⁽⁴⁾, opens and provides for the administration of Community tariff quotas for cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, respectively.

(3) Commission Regulation (EC) No 187/2004 ⁽⁵⁾ fixes the Community producer and import prices for carnations and roses for the application of the import arrangements.

(4) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 700/88 ⁽⁶⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2062/97 ⁽⁷⁾, lays down the detailed rules for the application of the arrangements.

(5) On the basis of prices recorded pursuant to Regulations (EEC) No 4088/87 and (EEC) No 700/88, it must be concluded that the conditions laid down in Article 2(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 for suspension of the preferential customs duty are met for multiflorous (spray) carnations originating in the West Bank and the Gaza strip; the Customs duty should be re-established.

(6) The quota for the products in question covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2003. As a result, the suspension of the preferential duty and the reintroduction of the Common Customs Tariff duty apply up to the end of that period at the latest.

(7) In between meetings of the Management Committee for Live Plants and Floriculture Products, the Commission must adopt such measures,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For imports of multiflorous (spray) carnations (CN code ex 0603 10 20) originating in the West Bank and the Gaza strip, the preferential customs duty fixed by Regulation (EC) No 747/2001 is hereby suspended and the Common Customs Tariff duty is hereby re-established.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 4 February 2004.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 382, 31.12.1987, p. 22.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 177, 5.7.1997, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 109, 19.4.2001, p. 2.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 127, 14.5.2002, p. 3.

⁽⁵⁾ See page 8 of this Official Journal.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 72, 18.3.1988, p. 16.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 289, 22.10.1997, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2004.

For the Commission
J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ
Agriculture Director-General

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

Information on the entry into force of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the State of Israel concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures and the replacement of Protocols 1 and 2 to the EC-Israel Association Agreement

The Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters, which was signed by the Community and Israel in Brussels on 23 December 2003, entered into force on 23 December 2003. The provisions of the Agreement apply from 1 January 2004. The Agreement was published in *Official Journal of the European Union* L 346 of 31 December 2003, page 65.

Information on the entry into force of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures and the replacement of Protocols 1 and 3 to the EC-Morocco Association Agreement

The Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters, which was signed by the Community on 23 December 2003 and by the Moroccan side on 30 December 2003, entered into force on 30 December 2003. The provisions of the Agreement apply from 1 January 2004, with the exception of Articles 2, 4 and 5 of Protocol 1, which apply from 1 October 2003. The Agreement was published in *Official Journal of the European Union* L 345 of 31 December 2003, page 117.

Information on the entry into force of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the trade and trade-related provisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Arab Republic of Egypt, of the other part

The Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters, which was signed by the Community on 19 December 2003 and by Egypt on 21 December 2003, entered into force on 21 December 2003. The provisions of the Agreement apply from 1 January 2004. The Agreement was published in *Official Journal of the European Union* L 345 of 31 December 2003, page 113.

**DECISION TAKEN BY COMMON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
MEMBER STATES, MEETING AT HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT LEVEL,
of 13 December 2003
on the location of the seats of certain offices and agencies of the European Union**

(2004/97/EC, Euratom)

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING AT
HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT LEVEL,

Having regard to Article 289 of the Treaty establishing the
European Community and Article 189 of the Treaty estab-
lishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Decision 2000/820/JHA established a European
Police College (CEPOL) ⁽¹⁾.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parlia-
ment and of the Council ⁽²⁾ established the European
Food Safety Authority.
- (3) Council Decision 2002/187/JHA ⁽³⁾ set up Eurojust.
- (4) Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 of the European Parlia-
ment and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾ established a European Mari-
time Safety Agency.
- (5) Regulation (EC) No 1592/2002 of the European Parlia-
ment and of the Council ⁽⁵⁾ established a European Avia-
tion Safety Agency.
- (6) The establishment of a European Railway Agency is
envisaged on the basis of the proposal submitted by the
Commission on 24 January 2002 ⁽⁶⁾.
- (7) The establishment of a European Network and Informa-
tion Security Agency is envisaged on the basis of the
proposal submitted by the Commission on 11 February
2003.
- (8) The establishment of a European Center for Disease
Prevention and Control is envisaged on the basis of the
proposal submitted by the Commission on 8 August
2003.
- (9) The establishment of a European Chemicals Agency is
envisaged on the basis of the proposal submitted by the
Commission on 29 October 2003.
- (10) The location of the seats of these different Offices and
Agencies should be determined,

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

- (a) The European Police College shall have its seat in
Bramshill.
- (b) The European Food Safety Authority shall have its seat in
Parma.
- (c) Eurojust shall have its seat in the Hague.
- (d) The European Maritime Safety Agency shall have its seat in
Lisbon.
- (e) The European Aviation Safety Agency shall have its seat in
Köln.
- (f) The European Railway Agency shall have its seat in Lille-
Valenciennes.
- (g) The European Network and Information Security Agency
shall have its seat in a town in Greece to be determined by
the Greek Government.
- (h) The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control
shall have its seat in a town in Sweden to be determined by
the Swedish Government.
- (i) The European Chemicals Agency shall have its seat in
Helsinki.

Article 2

This Decision, which will be published in the *Official Journal of
the European Union*, shall enter into force on this day.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 2003.

The President
S. BERLUSCONI

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 336, 30.12.2000, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 31 of 1.2.2002, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation
(EC) No 1642/2003 (OJ L 245, 29.9.2003, p. 4).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 63 of 6.3.2002, p. 1. Decision as amended by Decision 2003/
659/JHA (OJ L 245, 29.9.2003, p. 44).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 208 of 5.8.2002, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation
(EC) No 1644/2003 (OJ L 245, 29.9.2003, p. 10).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 240 of 7.9.2002, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commis-
sion Regulation (EC) No 1701/2003 (OJ L 243, 27.9.2003, p. 5).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 126 E of 28.5.2002, p. 323.

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 29 January 2004

repealing Decision 96/293/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to fishery products originating in Mauritania

(notified under document number C(2004) 128)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2004/98/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 97/78/EC of 18 December 1997 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 22(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Decision 96/293/EC of 30 April 1996 concerning certain protective measures with regard to fishery products originating in Mauritania ⁽²⁾ suspends the import of bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods originating in Mauritania.

(2) Commission Decision 97/20/EC of 17 December 1996 establishing the list of third countries fulfilling the equivalence conditions for the production and placing on the market of bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods ⁽³⁾ has superseded Decision 96/293/EC which has therefore become obsolete and should be repealed.

(3) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision 96/293/EC is repealed.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from 6 February 2004.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 January 2004.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 30.1.1998, p. 9.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 111, 4.5.1996, p. 22. Decision as amended by Decision 96/426/EC (OJ L 175, 13.7.1996, p. 33).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 46. Decision as last amended by Decision 2002/469/EC (OJ L 163, 21.6.2002, p. 16).

COMMISSION DECISION

of 29 January 2004

on a Community financial contribution for the evaluation of methods to detect processed animal proteins in feedingstuffs*(notified under document number C(2004) 131)*

(2004/99/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 90/424/EEC of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field ⁽¹⁾ and in particular Article 19 and Article 20 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Decision 90/424/EEC the Community is to undertake the scientific measures necessary for the development of Community veterinary legislation.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) ⁽²⁾ prohibits the feeding of animal protein to farmed animals, with the exception of certain animal proteins.
- (3) The prohibition to use ruminant proteins in the feeding of ruminants is a key element to prevent the transmission of TSEs to ruminants. Therefore, the proper implementation of such prohibition should be strictly controlled by the analysis of feedingstuffs.
- (4) Proteins derived from non-ruminants have not been implicated in TSE cases, and there is no scientific evidence pointing at the involvement of non-ruminant protein in TSE transmission. It has however proved necessary to ban the use of non-ruminant in feed for control reasons. In particular, analytical methods to differentiate ruminant from non-ruminant proteins in feed are not available.

- (5) Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 October 2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption ⁽³⁾ prohibits the feeding to an animal of a processed animal protein derived from the bodies or parts of bodies of animals of the same species.
- (6) The use of non-ruminant proteins in feedingstuffs under the conditions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 can only be reconsidered if validated methods to differentiate these proteins from ruminant proteins become available.
- (7) An intercomparison study for the determination of processed animal proteins in feedingstuffs was carried out in 2003 by the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements of the Joint Research Centre (IRMM-JRC). The study demonstrated that the variation in the application of the microscopic tests, and possibly the limited expertise of some analysts, resulted in significant differences in the sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of the only official method currently available. In addition, the study indicated good perspectives for the validation of alternative methods.
- (8) Based on this study and in order to harmonise and improve the determination of processed animal proteins, a proposal is currently discussed specifying and improving the microscopic method. This proposal also foresees the approval of alternative species-specific methods once they are validated.
- (9) Against this background, it is necessary to monitor the efficacy of laboratories carrying out microscopic tests, in particular in acceding countries, and to screen alternative methods when they become available.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Decision are necessary for the development of Community veterinary legislation and should, therefore, qualify for a financial contribution from the Community.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 19. Decision as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 806/2003 (OJ L 22, 16.5.2003, p.1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 147, 31.5.2001, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1915/2003 (OJ L 283, 31.10.2003, p. 29).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 273, 10.10.2002, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 808/2003 (OJ L 117, 13.5.2003, p. 10).

- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Commission shall ensure that for a period of 12 months at least the following tasks regarding the evaluation of methods to detect processed animal proteins in feedingstuffs are carried out:

- (a) a proficiency test on the detection of animal constituents in feedingstuffs;
- (b) pre-validation studies on relevant analytical methods for detecting animal constituents in feedingstuffs, depending on the progress of the development of such methods;

Article 2

For the measures provided for in Article 1 the financial contribution by the Community shall not exceed EUR 60 000.

Article 3

This Decision shall apply from 1 January 2004.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 January 2004.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

CORRIGENDA**Corrigendum to Commission Regulation (EC) No 152/2004 of 28 January 2004 on the issue of import licences for rice against applications submitted during the first 10 working days of January 2004 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 327/98**

(Official Journal of the European Union L 24 of 29 January 2004)

On page 54, in the Annex, part (c) of the Table, 'broken rice CN code 1006 40 00':

for: 'Quantity carried over to the tranche for July 2004 (tonnes)',

read: 'Quantity carried over to the tranche for May 2004 (tonnes)'.
