

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1501/2002**  
**of 22 August 2002**  
**amending Regulation (EC) No 2848/98 as regards the detailed rules for applying the quota buy-back programme in the raw tobacco sector**

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 <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 546/2002 <sup>(2)</sup>, and in particular Article 14a thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 35(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 <sup>(3)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1005/2002 <sup>(4)</sup>, provides, as part of the quota buy-back procedure, for a period running from 1 September to 31 December during which the Member State makes public producers' intentions to sell their quotas, so that other producers might buy them before they are permanently bought back.
- (2) Experience has shown that this four-month period is too long and so should be halved, thereby speeding up the buy-back procedure and making it more attractive to the producers, since the period of uncertainty regarding the conclusion of the sales procedure is also thus shortened.

- (3) As the period to be amended begins on 1 September, this Regulation must enter into force immediately.
- (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*

Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 2848/98 is hereby amended as follows:

- (a) The reference to '1 September' in Article 35(1) and (2) is replaced by '1 November';
- (b) Article 35(3) is replaced by the following:  
'3. Once the two-month period laid down in the first subparagraph of paragraph 2 is over, any quotas which have not been bought by producers shall be permanently bought back.'

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 August 2002.

*For the Commission*  
Franz FISCHLER  
*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 215, 30.7.1992, p. 70.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 84, 28.3.2002, p. 4.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 358, 31.12.1998, p. 17.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 153, 13.6.2002, p. 3.