

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 92 and 93 of the EC Treaty

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(98/C 136/03)

Date of adoption: 12.1.1998

Member State: Belgium (Vlaanderen)

Aid No: N 526/97

Title: Aid for 'Landinrichtingswerken' (town and country planning and improvement of public infrastructure)

Objective: Town and country planning and improvement of public infrastructure

Legal basis: Verscheidene decreten en besluiten van de Vlaamse regering op het gebied van landinrichting

Budget: About BEF 333 million (about ECU 8 million) in total in the period 1997 to 2001

Aid intensity: Up to 100 % of eligible costs of the measures concerned

Duration: Until the year 2001

Conditions: The Commission considers that normally no aid in the sense of Article 92(1) is granted to private enterprises through this scheme. The transfers of public monies subject to this scheme are mainly transfers between the Flemish Government and other public institutions (e.g. communities). If monies are given to private enterprises it is only for investments not linked to production, which normally would have been made by the public authorities.

The Commission has noted the statement of the Belgian authorities that, if in exceptional cases investments which give an economic benefit to farming enterprises are aided, the aid rate would be limited to 30 % of eligible costs

Date of adoption: 19.1.1998

Member State: Austria (Styria)

Aid No: N 760/97

Title: Measures for farm workers (amendments)

Objective: To improve workers' accommodation and other social measures

Legal basis:

— § 19 Absatz 4 des steirischen Gesetzes über die Förderung der Landwirtschaft von 1993

— steirische Richtlinie zur Übertragung der Zuständigkeit für bestimmte soziale Maßnahmen an die Kammer der landwirtschaftlichen Arbeitnehmer

Budget: Unspecified

Aid intensity: The measure is not considered a State aid within the meaning of Article 92(1) of the Treaty

Duration: Unlimited

Date of adoption: 21.1.1998

Member State: The Netherlands

Aid No: N 561/97

Title: Aid and parafiscal charges for research and publicity in the calf sector — amendment of existing aid (N 98/93)

Objective: Applied research on calf nutrition and publicity for veal

Legal basis: Heffingsverordening Vvr fondsen kunstmelkvoederbereiders 1992

Budget: Unspecified

Aid intensity: Up to 100 % of the eligible costs

Duration: Unspecified

Conditions: With regard to the publicity aid, the Commission has noted the Dutch authorities' assurance that the framework for national aids for the advertising of agricultural and similar products (OJ C 302, 12.11.1987, p. 6) will be complied with.

The Commission requests the Dutch authorities to submit examples of publicity messages (slogans and logos) as soon as they are available.

Concerning the question of changing the origin of raw materials, imported where applicable from the other Member States and from third countries and used for the manufacture of compound feeding stuffs within the meaning of Article 24 of Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92

establishing the Community Customs Code, the Commission reserves the right to reexamine its position with regard to the substantial character of such change when the rules of origin for the products concerned are harmonised at Community level

Date of adoption: 21.1.1998

Member State: Spain (Asturias)

Aid No: NN 165/95

Title: Aid to promote new machine and agricultural equipment technology

Objective: Aid for investments by cooperatives and other groups to enable several farms to jointly acquire new technology machinery

Legal basis: Resolución de 4 de febrero de 1995 por la que se establecen ayudas para la promoción de nuevas tecnologías en maquinaria y equipos agrarios

Aid intensity: 25 % (40 % in less-favoured areas)

Duration: Unspecified

Conditions: The Spanish authorities undertake to comply with the sectoral restrictions specified in Regulation (EC) No 950/97

Date of adoption: 21.1.1998

Member State: Belgium (Wallonia)

Aid No: N 795/96

Title: Special measures for beef and veal

Objective: To help compensate beef producers for losses incurred as a result of the BSE crisis

Legal basis: Projet d'arrêté du gouvernement wallon relatif aux aides à l'agriculture

Budget: BEF 130 000 000 (approximately ECU 3,25 million) in 1997

Aid intensity: Up to 1,8 % as an interest-rate subsidy

Duration: Five years

Conditions: Aid may under no circumstances exceed the losses actually suffered by each beef producer (BEF

1 118/LU) as a result of the BSE crisis, taking into account the aid decided by the Council

Proposal: The Commission has noted the Belgian authorities' assurance that the aid does not exceed the ceiling of BEF 1 118/LU.

Each new aid scheme involving new budget allocations must be notified to the Commission under Article 93(3) of the Treaty

Date of adoption: 21.1.1998

Member State: The Netherlands

Aid No: N 605/96

Title: Aid and parafiscal taxes for publicity for milk and milk products

Objective: Publicity for milk and milk products on the farm and produced by the dairy industry

Legal basis: Verscheidene heffings- en fondsverordeningen van het Zuivelproductschap

Budget: About NLG 78 million (about ECU 35 million) for 1997

Aid intensity: Up to 100 % of eligible costs of the publicity aid measures concerned

Duration: Not determined

Conditions: As concerns publicity aid the Commission took into account the fact that the Dutch authorities provide assurances that the provisions of the Commission framework regarding State aid for publicity for agricultural products (OJ C 302, 12.11.1987, p. 6) will be respected.

The Commission reserves the right to reconsider the aspect that production of butter and cheese is considered as substantial transformation of the milk used for these products in the sense of Article 24 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2913/92 under Article 93(1) of the Treaty when at the level of the WTO an agreement on rules of origin on milk products is achieved and the Community has adopted these provisions in its legislation

Date of adoption: 21.1.1998

Member State: The Netherlands

Aid No: N 797/97

Title: Aid for insurances against plant and animal diseases and adverse weather conditions

Objective: Stimulation of establishment of new insurances against damage owing to combat against animal and plant diseases and adverse weather conditions

Legal basis: Besluit van de minister van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij

Budget: NLG 10 million (ECU 5 million) per year for the years 1998 and 1999

Aid intensity: 80 % of the insurance premium in the first year of the insurance contract

Duration: Until 1999

Conditions: The Commission requests the Dutch authorities to submit an annual report on the application of this scheme. This report should also contain details on the plant and animal diseases compensation for damage which could be subject to aided insurances and on selection procedure of insurance companies through which this aid is paid out

Date of adoption: 21.1.1998

Member State: The Netherlands

Aid No: N 829/97

Title: Buying-up scheme for the pigmeat sector

Objective: Purchase by the State of pig-manure production rights to reduce the density of pig farms in the areas affected by the 1996 to 1997 outbreak of classical swine fever

Legal basis: Opkoopregeling varkenshouderij

Budget: NLG 50 million (approximately ECU 21,8 million) in 1998

Aid intensity: The measure is not considered to be a State aid

Duration: One-off purchase of pig-manure production rights

Conditions: The Commission considers this scheme to be a State economic operation to take manure production rights off the market in order to protect the environment. Because these rights are purchased by open tendering procedure, only the actual market price will be paid to participants in this scheme. The Commission does not therefore consider this scheme as a State aid within the meaning of Article 92(1) of the Treaty

Date of adoption: 21.1.1998

Member State: The Netherlands

Aid No: N 772/97 and 773/97

Title: Aid for non-food use of flax fibres and marigold oil

Objective: Stimulation of non-food use of plant products

Legal basis: Besluiten van de minister van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij

Budget: NLG 5,5 million (ECU \pm 2,5 million) for 1998

Aid intensity:

- Investment aid: up to 55 % of eligible costs
- Research aid: 35 % of eligible costs

Duration: 1998 to 2005
