

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2231/2003
of 23 December 2003**

**opening tariff quotas for the year 2004 for imports into the European Community of certain
products originating in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3448/93 of 6 December 1993 laying down the trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 7(2) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 98/707/EC of 22 October 1998 relating to the conclusion of a Protocol for the adaptation of the trade aspects of the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part, to take into account the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union and the results of the agricultural negotiations of the Uruguay Round, including the improvements of the existing preferential regime ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 2(1) of that Decision and Articles 2 and 6 of that Protocol,

Having regard to Council Decision 98/638/EC of 5 October 1998 relating to the conclusion of a Protocol for the adaptation of the trade aspects of the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part, to take into account the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union and the results of the agricultural negotiations of the Uruguay Round, including the improvements of the existing preferential regime ⁽³⁾, and in particular Article 2(1) of that Decision and Articles 2 and 6 of that Protocol,

Whereas:

- (1) Protocols 3 on trade in processed agricultural products to the Europe Agreements with the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, as amended by the Protocols for the adapting of those Agreements, provide for the granting of annual tariff quotas for imports of products originating in the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Those quotas should be opened for 2004.

- (2) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Common Customs Code ⁽⁴⁾ lays down rules for the management of tariff quotas. It is appropriate to provide that the tariff quotas opened by this Regulation are to be managed in accordance with those rules.

- (3) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for horizontal questions concerning trade in processed agricultural products not listed in Annex I,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

The annual quotas for the products originating in the Czech Republic and in the Slovak Republic, set out in Annexes I and II shall be open from 1 January 2004 to 30 April 2004 under the conditions set out in the said Annexes.

Article 2

The Community tariff quotas referred to in Article 1 shall be managed by the Commission in accordance with Articles 308a, 308b and 308c of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93.

Article 3

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2004.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 318, 20.12.1993, p. 18; Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2580/2000 (OJ L 298, 25.11.2000, p. 5).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 341, 16.12.1998, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 306, 16.11.1998, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1; Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1335/2003 (OJ L 187, 26.7.2003, p. 16).

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

Done at Brussels, 23 December 2003.

For the Commission

Erkki LIIKANEN

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Czech Republic

Serial No	CN code	Description	Quota from 1.1. to 30.4.2004	Rate of duty applicable
09.5417	0403 10 51	Yogurt, flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa	1 812 000 EUR	0 + EAR ⁽¹⁾
	0403 10 91			
	0403 10 93			
	0403 10 99			
	0405 20 30	Dairy spreads of a fat content, by weight, of 60 % or more, but not exceeding 75 %		
	ex 1704 90 99 (TARIC code 1704 90 99 90)	Sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa, containing 70 % or more by weight of sucrose (including invert sugar expressed as sucrose)		
	1806 10 90	Cocoa powder containing 80 % or more by weight of sucrose (including invert sugar expressed as sucrose) or isoglucose expressed as sucrose		
	ex 1806 20 80 (TARIC code 1806 20 80 90)	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa, other preparations in blocks, slabs or bars weighing more than 2 kg or in liquid, paste, powder, granular or other bulk form in containers or immediate packings of a content exceeding 2 kg, chocolate flavour coating, containing less than 70 % by weight of sucrose (including invert sugar expressed as sucrose)		
		Pasta, whether or not cooked or stuffed (with meat or other substances) or otherwise prepared, such as spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, lasagne, gnocchi, ravioli, cannelloni, couscous whether or not prepared.		
		– uncooked pasta, not stuffed or otherwise prepared		
	1902 11 00	– – containing eggs		
		– – other		
	1902 19 10	– – – containing no common wheat flour or meal		

⁽¹⁾ EAR = reduced agricultural components (calculated in accordance with the basic amounts set out in Protocol 3 to the Agreement) applicable within the quantitative limits of the quotas. Such reduced agricultural components are subject to the maximum duty laid down in the common customs tariff, if any.

⁽²⁾ Eligibility to benefit from this preference is subject to conditions laid down in the relevant Community provisions.

ANNEX II

Slovak Republic

Serial No	CN code	Description	Quota from 1.1. to 30.4.2004	Rate of duty applicable
09.5417	0403 10 51	Yogurt, flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa	906 000 EUR	0 + EAR ⁽¹⁾
	0403 10 53			
	0403 10 59			
	0403 10 91			
	0403 10 93			
	0403 10 99			
	0403 90 71	Other, flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa		
	0403 90 73			
	0403 90 79			
	0403 90 91			
	0403 90 93			
	0403 90 99			
	1806 10 90	Cocoa powder containing 80 % or more by weight of sucrose (including invert sugar expressed as sucrose) or isoglucose expressed as sucrose		
	2106 90 10	Cheese fondues ⁽²⁾		

⁽¹⁾ EAR = reduced agricultural components (calculated in accordance with the basic amounts set out in Protocol 3 to the Agreement) applicable within the quantitative limits of the quotas. Such reduced agricultural components are subject to the maximum duty laid down in the common customs tariff, if any.

⁽²⁾ Eligibility to benefit from this preference is subject to conditions laid down in the relevant Community provisions.