

Official Journal

of the European Communities

ISSN 0378-6986

C 201

Volume 26

28 July 1983

English edition

Information and Notices

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I

(Information)

COUNCIL AND COMMISSION

Missions of third countries: accreditations

The President of the Council and the President of the Commission of the European Communities received His Excellency Ambassador Solomon Mahaka, who presented to them his letters of credence in his capacity as Head of the Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) with effect from 19 July 1983.

On this occasion the newly-appointed Head of Mission also presented his predecessor's letters of recall.

The President of the Council and the President of the Commission of the European Communities received His Excellency Ambassador Antonio Gonzalez-de-Leon Quintanilla, who presented to them his letters of credence in his capacity as Head of the Mission of the United Mexican States to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) with effect from 19 July 1983.

On this occasion the newly-appointed Head of Mission also presented his predecessor's letters of recall.

The President of the Council and the President of the Commission of the European Communities received His Excellency Ambassador Jorge Guillermo Llosa Pautrat, who presented to them his letters of credence in his capacity as Head of the Mission of the Republic of Peru to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) with effect from 19 July 1983.

On this occasion the newly-appointed Head of Mission also presented his predecessor's letters of recall.

The President of the Council and the President of the Commission of the European Communities received His Excellency Ambassador Manfred Scheich, who presented to them his letters of credence in his capacity as Head of the Austrian Mission to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) with effect from 19 July 1983.

On this occasion the newly-appointed Head of Mission also presented his predecessor's letters of recall.

COMMISSION

ECU ⁽¹⁾

27 July 1983

Currency amount for one unit:

Belgian and Luxembourg franc con.	45,5964	United States dollar	0,869124
Belgian and Luxembourg franc fin.	45,7811	Swiss franc	1,83733
German mark	2,27928	Spanish peseta	129,456
Dutch guilder	2,54871	Swedish krona	6,72094
Pound sterling	0,568985	Norwegian krone	6,40545
Danish krone	8,20019	Canadian dollar	1,07128
French franc	6,85000	Portuguese escudo	104,425
Italian lira	1349,53	Austrian schilling	16,0180
Irish pound	0,721564	Finnish markka	4,88665
Greek drachma	73,8147	Japanese yen	209,285
		Australian dollar	0,987641
		New Zealand dollar	1,32955

The Commission has installed a telex with an automatic answering device which gives the conversion rates in a number of currencies. This service is available every day from 3.30 p.m. until 1 p.m. the following day.

Users of the service should do as follows:

- call telex number Brussels 23789;
- give their own telex code;
- type the code 'cccc' which puts the automatic system into operation resulting in the transmission of the conversion rates of the EUA;
- the transmission should not be interrupted until the end of the message, which is marked by the code 'ffff'.

Note: The Commission also has an automatic telex answering service (No 21791) providing daily data on calculation of monetary compensatory amounts for the purposes of the common agricultural policy.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EEC) No 3180/78 of 18 December 1978 (OJ No L 379, 30. 12. 1978, p. 1).
 Council Decision 80/1184/EEC of 18 December 1980 (Convention of Lomé) (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 34).
 Commission Decision No 3334/80/ECSC of 19 December 1980 (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 27).
 Financial Regulation of 16 December 1980 concerning the general budget of the European Communities (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 23).
 Council Regulation (EEC) No 3308/80 of 16 December 1980 (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 1).
 Decision of the Council of Governors of the European Investment Bank of 13 May 1981 (OJ No L 311, 30. 10. 1981, p. 1).

Average prices and representative prices for table wines at the various marketing centres

(Established on 26 July 1983 for the application of Article 4 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79)

Type of wine and the various marketing centres	ECU per % vol/hl	Type of wine and the various marketing centres	ECU per % vol/hl
R I		A I	
Bastia	No quotation	Bordeaux	No quotation
Béziers	2,519	Nantes	No quotation
Montpellier	2,496	Bari	2,237
Narbonne	No quotation	Cagliari	No quotation
Nîmes	2,504	Chieti	2,274
Perpignan	No quotation	Ravenna (Lugo, Faenza)	2,424
Asti	2,796	Trapani (Alcamo)	2,088
Firenze	2,237	Treviso	No quotation
Lecce	No quotation	Athens	No quotation
Pescara	No quotation	Heraklion	No quotation
Reggio Emilia	2,647	Patras	No quotation
Treviso	No quotation	Representative price	2,196
Verona (for local wines)	2,629		
Heraklion	No quotation		
Patras	No quotation		
Representative price	2,535		
			ECU/hl
R II		A II	
Bastia	No quotation	Rheinfalz (Oberhaardt)	29,73
Brignoles	No quotation	Rheinhessen (Hügelland)	29,36
Bari	2,349	The wine-growing region of the Luxembourg Moselle	No quotation (*)
Barletta	No quotation	Representative price	29,56
Cagliari	No quotation		
Lecce	No quotation		
Taranto	No quotation		
Heraklion	No quotation	A III	
Patras	No quotation	Mosel-Rheingau	40,12
Representative price	2,349	The wine-growing region of the Luxembourg Moselle	No quotation (*)
		Representative price	40,12
	ECU/hl		
R III			
Rheinfalz-Rheinhessen (Hügelland)	No quotation (*)		

(*) Quotation not taken into account in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 2682/77.

STATE AIDS

(Italy — Sicily)

(Articles 92 to 94 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community)

Notice given in accordance with Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty to parties concerned other than Member States regarding Regional Law No 105/1982 of 5 August 1982 amending the regional budget

The Commission has initiated the procedure of Article 93 (2) of the Treaty in respect of the following measures on account of their incompatibility with the Treaty:

1. Articles 9 and 10 — Aids for a company with a regional shareholding for planning and marketing in the wine sector (Lit 2 000 000 000).

(Request for further information concerning the criteria for granting the aid).

2. Article 33 — Aids and interest subsidies (Lit 1 000 000 000 in all) for wine-growing cooperatives for the installation and restructuring of bottling plants for marketing Sicilian wine in Italy and abroad.

(Request for further information concerning the criteria for granting the aid).

3. Article 35 — Expenditure of Lit 13 000 million for refinancing the schemes provided for in Articles 1, 2 and 3 of Regional Law No 37 of 16 August 1974, namely:

Article 1: aid of 40 % of the cost of sterilizing land.

Article 2: aid of up to 50 % for the purchase of sterilization equipment.

Article 3: Lit 250 to 350 for the purchase of each kilogram of plastic for covering greenhouses.

(Request for the abolition of the aids provided for in Articles 1 and 3 and for limiting to 35 % the aid provided for in Article 2).

4. Article 36 — Refinancing of the provisions of the first subparagraph of Article 1 of Regional Law No 35 of 23 December 1976 providing for loans at a reduced rate of interest for five years (disaster).

(Request for details).

5. Article 39 — Refinancing of the aid provided for in Article 36 of Regional Law No 83 of 12 August 1980 providing for the grant to cooperatives, consortia and producer groups of an additional aid on account of the increase in investment costs incurred by virtue of the rise in construction costs.

(Request not to exceed a maximum rate of aid of 75 % for installations in mountain and hill farming or less-favoured areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC and corresponding to investments under national programmes adopted pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 ⁽¹⁾ and 50 % for investments in normal areas).

6. Article 40 — Extension for one year of the measures provided for in Article 5 a and b of Law No 57 of 11 April 1981 providing for:

— the grant of Lit 100 for each rooted vine plant (parts of vine shoots rooted and not grafted, intended for the planting of vine stock or for use as root stock for grafting) unused and destroyed,

— the grant of Lit 300 for each rooted graft vine plant (parts of vine shoots grafted together) unused and destroyed.

The aid is granted to nursery gardeners. An amount of Lit 2 500 million is set aside for the purpose.

(Request for the abolition of the aid).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 of 15 February 1977 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed (OJ No L 51, 23. 2. 1977).

7. Article 41 — Refinancing of Articles 9 and 10 of Regional Law No 36 of 20 April 1976 providing for subsidies of 50 % for associations of farmers and 70 to 80 % for farmers in owner-occupation for schemes to improve land and pasture land, equipment for dairy farms and aids for small farmers for the construction of cattle shelters.

(Request for the limitation of the aids as under 5 above where the aids in question are to be used for processing or marketing).

8. Article 42 — Refinancing of the measures provided for in Articles 1 and 3 of Regional Law No 23 of 28 July 1978 providing for:

- (a) subsidies of 60 to 70 % for producers' associations, cooperatives and consortia for modernizing plants for preserving and processing agricultural and animal products;
- (b) reduced interest rate loans for land improvement.

A sum of Lit 2 000 million is set aside for this purpose.

(Request for the limitation of the aids as under a).

9. Article 46 — Increase in the resources of the 'fondo di rotazione' created within the 'Enti di sviluppo agricolo' within the meaning of Article 14 of Regional Law No 21 of 12 May 1959 for the granting of management loans and loans for extinguishing the deficits of animal husbandry associations.

A sum of Lit 7 000 million is set aside for this purpose.

(Request for further information concerning the criteria for granting the aid).

10. Article 51 — Refinancing of the provisions of Article 22 of Law No 85 of 12 August 1980 providing for subsidies amounting to 12 % of the purchase price for each quintal of Sicilian durum wheat purchased by millers.

(Request for the abolition of the aid).

Under that procedure, and in accordance with the first sentence of Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty, the Commission hereby gives notice to all the parties concerned other than the Member States to submit their comments within one month from the date of this notice to:

Commission of the European Communities,
rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

STATE AIDS

(Italy — Sicily)

(Articles 92 to 94 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community)

Notice given in accordance with Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty to parties concerned other than Member States regarding Regional Law No 87 of 5 August 1982 promulgating measures in respect of agricultural loans and urgent assistance for certain production sectors in Sicily

The Commission has initiated the procedure laid down in Article 93 (2) of the Treaty in respect of the following measures on grounds of incompatibility with the Treaty.

1. Articles 4 and 5 — Payment by the region of a supplementary interest rate subsidy on account of the increase in the maximum interest rate which occurred between allocation and actual payment of the subsidy. (Request not to exceed aid ceiling of 75 % for investments covered by national

programmes adopted in pursuance of Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 ⁽¹⁾ in respect of farms located in mountain or less-favoured areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC and 50 % for investments in normal areas).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 of 15 February 1977 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed (OJ No L 51, 23. 2. 1977).

2. Article 6 — Lit 100 million increase in the 1982 commitment ceiling for the financing of Article 9 of Regional Law No 22 of 18 July 1974 referring to Article 16 of Law No 910 of 27 October 1966 (second green plan) providing aid for investments (primary production and processing) and agricultural infrastructure projects up to a maximum of 50 %.

(Request for further information).

3. Article 8 — Refinancing of the following provisions:

Regional Law No 23 of 28 July 1978, Articles 1, 2 (third paragraph) and 3;

Regional Law No 197 of 13 August 1979, Articles 2 and 3;

Regional Law No 47 of 27 May 1980, Article 12;

Regional Law No 97 of 6 May 1981, Article 43.

The above provisions provide for:

- subsidies of up to 70 % on the purchase, extension and modernization of installations for the preservation, processing and sale of agricultural products,
- interest rate subsidies on loans covering the difference between the subsidies referred to in the previous paragraph and the overall investment cost,
- 70 % subsidy plus interest rate subsidy over 20 years on the balance of the aid not covered by the subsidy to enable implementation of EAGGF projects approved but not financed owing to lack of funds.

(Request to restrict aid levels as specified at 1 above).

4. Article 9 — Lit 5 000 million boost for the revolving fund of the Istituto regionale per il credito alla Cooperazione (IRCAC) for the granting of 15-year loans at 7,5 % (two years pre-redemption in the case of agricultural cooperatives and their consortia) in respect of investments designed to modify and improve processing and marketing structures.

(Request to restrict aid levels as specified at 1 above).

5. Article 10 — Authorization for the Regional Assessment Office for Agriculture and Forestry to grant an interest rate subsidy on the operating loans referred to in Article 2 (2) of Law No 1760 of 5 July 1928 granted by establishments and agencies empowered to grant agricultural loans in the region of Sicily for the procurement of cattle, horses, sheep and goats.

(Request to restrict aid level for the purchase of male breeding animals to 40 %).

6. Article 15 — Extension of eligibility for the benefits provided for in Articles 30 and 31 of Regional Law No 97/81 to include groups of producers already formed in accordance with Law No 306 of 8 July 1975 and/or Law No 674 of 20 October 1978 when the Law under consideration came into force, namely:

- aid for milk producers belonging to co-operatives and consortia amounting to Lit 4 500 per hectolitre of milk delivered to those bodies, in an attempt to reduce milk collection, transport and refrigeration costs.

Estimated expenditure for 1981-83: Lit 2 500 million,

- aid for associated cheese producers amounting to Lit 4 500 per hectolitre of milk produced in Sicily and used in the manufacture of Caciocavallo, Pecorino and Canestrato Misto cheeses.

Estimated expenditure for 1981-83: Lit 1 000 million.

(Request to discontinue aid).

Under this procedure and in accordance with the first sentence of Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty, the Commission hereby gives notice to all parties concerned other than Member States to submit their comments within one month from the publication of this notice to the following address:

Commission of the European Communities,
rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

STATE AIDS

(Italy — Sicily)

(Articles 92 to 94 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community)

Notice given in accordance with Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty to the parties concerned other than Member States concerning Regional Law No 86 of 5 August 1982 on emergency measures in agriculture (Official Journal of the Sicily Region No 36 of 14 August 1982)

The Commission has initiated the procedure provided for in Article 93 (2) of the Treaty in respect of the following measures, on the grounds that they are not compatible with the Treaty:

1. Article 7 — Refinancing of Article 34 of Regional Law No 36 of 20 April 1976 on subsidy of 60 % of the purchase price of selected flower cuttings.
2. Article 10 and 11 — Aid for the launching of a syndicate aimed at obtaining the best return for table grapes, and aid for cooperatives.
3. Article 12 — Aid for groups of wine-growers recognized in accordance with Regional Law No 81 of 6 May 1981 and Law No 622 of 27 July 1967, in particular with a view to financing the installation of telex facilities, monitoring the end use of products which are not marketed and the work carried out by the groups in question.
4. Article 13 — Aid to encourage the use by industry of table grapes which are not marketed, the criteria for the granting of which are to be laid down by the Istituto regionale della vite e del vino (request for additional information concerning the criteria for granting the aid).
5. Article 14 — Operating aid covering 50 % of the expenditure in respect of a project for the sale of 'Italia' grapes in a non-member country.
6. Articles 18, 24 and 25 — Investment aid for processing and marketing (in excess of the maximum rate of 75 % in respect of facilities in mountain and hill-farming areas and less-favoured areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC — investment in connection with the national programmes adopted under Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 ⁽¹⁾ and 50 % in the case of other areas.
7. Article 21 — Aid for the improvement of pastureland (request for additional information regarding the aids and the areas concerned).
8. Article 27 — Endowment of Lit 3 000 million for IRFIS (Regional Institute for the Financing of Industry in Sicily) for measures the criteria for the application of which are to be laid down by the Ministry for Industry (request for additional information concerning the criteria for granting aid).
9. Article 31 — Five-year loans at 7,5 % to groups of citrus growers recognized within the meaning of Law No 622 of 27 July 1967 (request for additional information concerning the allowance system).
10. Article 33 to 39 — *Una tantum* (once-and-for-all) subsidy of up to 50 % of the liabilities of cooperatives, cooperative wineries, producers' groups and syndicates and 15-year loans at 10 % in respect of the remaining 50 % (several products).
11. Article 49 — Subsidies covering 40 % of the cost of soil steaming: of Lit 250 per kilogram of plastic film for tunnels; subsidies in excess of 35 % for the purchase of soil-steaming equipment.

Accordingly, pursuant to the first sentence of Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty, the Commission hereby gives notice to all parties concerned other than Member States that they must submit their comments not later than one month after the publication of this notice, to:

the Commission of the European Communities,
rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 of 15 February 1977 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed (OJ No L 51, 23. 2. 1977).

STATE AIDS

(Articles 92 to 94 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community)

Notice pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 93 (2) of the Treaty to interested parties other than Member States concerning a French aid measure in support of the microelectronics sector

The proposed scheme covers the five years 1982 to 1986 and is intended to support research and development, training, fixed investment and encouragement of the application of microelectronic processes in new sectors.

On 2 February 1983, the Commission opened the procedure provided for by the first subparagraph of Article 93 (2) of the Treaty with respect to the parts of the scheme concerned with fixed investment and encouragement of the application of microelectronic processes in new sectors, as it had not been supplied with all the information it needed to carry out a proper appraisal of these parts of the scheme.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 93, the Commission hereby gives notice to interested parties other than Member States to send their comments on the above case within four weeks of the publication of this notice to:

Commission of the European Communities,
rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

The Commission feels that the support for investment provided for by the scheme may reduce the level of expenditure normally borne by the recipient firms and improve their general competitive position *vis-a-vis* their competitors. This could affect trading conditions, such as would normally obtain on the market, to an extent contrary to the common interest.

Commission communications under Article 115 of the EEC Treaty

By Decision dated 25 July 1983 the Commission has rejected an application by the French Republic for authorization not to apply Community treatment to imports of products falling within subheadings 60.05 A I and ex A II of the Common Customs Tariff (category 5), originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other Member States.

By Decision dated 25 July 1983 the Commission has rejected an application by the Italian Republic for authorization not to apply Community treatment to imports of products falling within heading No 55.09 of the Common Customs Tariff (category 2), originating in Brazil, Poland and Taiwan and in free circulation in the other Member States.
