

Official Journal

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Information and Notices

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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Ecu (¹)

7 January 1997

(97/C 4/01)

Currency amount for one unit:

Belgian and Luxembourg franc	40,1077	Finnish markka	5,84609
Danish krone	7,42411	Swedish krona	8,67880
German mark	1,94658	Pound sterling	0,735519
Greek drachma	306,097	United States dollar	1,24597
Spanish peseta	163,720	Canadian dollar	1,69639
French franc	6,58034	Japanese yen	143,747
Irish pound	0,746402	Swiss franc	1,68467
Italian lira	1912,57	Norwegian krone	8,04522
Dutch guilder	2,18468	Icelandic krona	83,6170
Austrian schilling	13,6957	Australian dollar	1,57978
Portuguese escudo	195,306	New Zealand dollar	1,75736
		South African rand	5,81805

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 ecu,
- 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 fax answering service (No 296 10 97/296 60 11) providing daily data concerning calculation of the conversion rates applicable 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), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1971/89 (OJ No L 189, 4. 7. 1989, 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).

Authorization for State aid pursuant to Articles 92 and 93 of the EC Treaty**Cases where the Commission raises no objections**

(97/C 4/02)

Date of adoption: 16. 9. 1996**Member State:** Spain (Cantabria)**Aid No:** N 142/96**Title:** Marketing of foodstuffs**Objective:** To improve the processing and marketing of traditional foodstuffs**Legal basis:** Proyecto de orden por la que se establecen medidas de apoyo a la elaboración y comercialización de productos alimentarios tradicionales de Cantabria**Budget:** Unspecified**Aid intensity:** Various**Duration:** Unspecified**Conditions:**

- The Spanish authorities undertake to comply with the sectoral restrictions provided for in Decision 94/173/EC
- The Commission reserves the right to re-examine aid for the creation and start-up of groups when it examines aid of this type in all Member States pursuant to Article 93 (1) of the EC Treaty

Title: Measure concerning investments in facilities for the storage of liquid manure and mobile milking units**Objective:** To encourage investments for the storage of liquid manure and mobile milking machine units in order to protect the environment in Objective 5 (b) areas by granting supplementary aid in addition to that which can be part-financed pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures**Legal basis:** Richtlinie über die Gewährung von Zuwendungen für Festmisteinrichtungen und mobile Melkanlagen**Budget:**

- 1997: DM 0,385 million (approximately ECU 0,195 million)
- 1998: DM 1,155 million (approximately ECU 0,55 million)
- 1999: DM 2,310 million (approximately ECU 1,155 million)

Aid intensity: Up to 45 % of the eligible costs depending on the type of measure**Duration:** Until 1999**Date of adoption:** 16. 9. 1996**Member State:** Spain (Cantabria)**Aid No:** N 499/96**Title:** Aid for the organization of cattle markets**Objective:** The organization of cattle markets**Legal basis:** Proyecto de Orden por la que se establecen ayudas a la organización de concursos, exposiciones y concentraciones ganaderas**Budget:** Pta 10 million (approximately ECU 62 000) for 1996**Aid intensity:** Maximum 100 % of expenditure**Duration:** Until 31. 12. 1999**Date of adoption:** 17. 9. 1996**Member State:** Germany (Rheinland-Pfalz)**Aid No:** N 273/96**Title:** Programme to promote farming methods compatible with environmental protection ('FUL')**Objective:** To introduce or maintain

- 'integrated' production practices
- organic production practices
- extensive use of grassland
- restrictions on certain farming practices on river banks

Legal basis: Verwaltungsvorschrift 'Förderung von Maßnahmen zur Einführung und Beibehaltung extensiver Erzeugungspraktiken aus Gründen des Umweltschutzes und zur Erhaltung der natürlichen Lebensräume'**Date of adoption:** 16. 9. 1996**Member State:** Germany (Lower Saxony)**Aid No:** N 536/96

Budget:

- 1996: DM 26 million (approximately ECU 13 million)
- 1997: DM 38 million (approximately ECU 19 million)
- 1998: DM 50 million (approximately ECU 25 million)
- 1999: DM 52 million (approximately ECU 26 million)

Aid intensity: Various according to the conditions met by the recipients

Duration: Unspecified

Date of adoption: 17. 9. 1996

Member State: Germany (Hamburg)

Aid No: N 451/96

Title: Measure to promote structural measures in the meat processing and marketing sector

Objective: To improve hygiene, reduce damage to the environment, increase water and energy savings and improve the marketing of meat by improving the organization of the firm

Legal basis: Zuwendungsbescheid an die Firma Fleisch-großmarkt Hamburg GmbH

Budget: 1996: DM 0,9 million (approximately ECU 0,45 million)

Aid intensity: 10 % of eligible costs

Duration: 1996

Date of adoption: 25. 9. 1996

Member State: Spain (Galicia)

Aid No: N 183/96

Title: Vineyard restructuring programme

Objective: To restructure vineyards in certain areas suited to quality wine production and/or to improve profitability and quality by introducing suitable varieties

Legal basis: Proyecto de Orden por la que se regulan ayudas para la reestructuración del viñedo

Budget: Pta 40 million (ECU 251 000)

Aid intensity: 30 % of investment

Duration: Unspecified

Date of adoption: 25. 9. 1996

Member State: Germany (Saxony-Anhalt)

Aid No: N 568/96

Title: Measure to encourage the sale of the agricultural products

Objective: To promote sales and improve the quality of agricultural products, to increase knowledge of the specific characteristics of agricultural products and to encourage publicity for these products

Legal basis: Zuwendungsbescheid an die Agrarmarketinggesellschaft Sachsen-Anhalt mbH

Budget:

- 1996: DM 1,6 million (approximately ECU 0,8 million)
- 1997: DM 1,6 million
- 1998: DM 1,6 million
- 1999: DM 1,6 million

Aid intensity: Various according to the measure

Duration: 1996 to 1999

Date of adoption: 2. 10. 1996

Member State: France

Aid No: NN 74/94

Title: State contribution to measures to control threats to crops in the overseas departments

Objective: To control the propagation of plant diseases (Article 352 of the Rural Code) and improve plant health practice with regard to residues of pesticides with a view to limiting pollution of the environment and protecting public health

Legal basis: Décret n° 57-1361 du 30 décembre 1957 modifiant l'article 347 du code rural et article 352 du code rural

Budget: FF 24 million in 1992 (approximately ECU 3,6 million)

Conditions:

- The provisions are to be adopted by the public authority responsible for the control of plant diseases
- Research will be carried out in the general interest of the sector concerned and the results will be disseminated or placed at the disposal of the entire sector

— The Commission reserves the right to re-examine the research aid provided for by the above measure pursuant to Article 93 (1) of the Treaty once the amendments to the Community rules on State aids for research and development (OJ No C 45, 17. 2. 1996) relating to agriculture have been notified to the Member States

Date of adoption: 2. 10. 1996

Member State: Italy (Lombardy)

Aid No: N 304/96

Title: Amendments to and integration of Regional Laws 29/91 and 4/95

Objective: To improve cooperative structures in the food sector

Legal basis: Legge regionale n. 29/91, legge regionale n. 4/95

Budget: Balance drawn up annually. A budget of Lit 40 billion is planned for three years (1995 to 1997) (approximately ECU 20,5 million)

Aid intensity: 50 %

Duration: Unspecified

Conditions: The Commission notes the Italian authorities' undertaking to comply with the Community rules on national investment aid for the processing and marketing of agricultural products (OJ No C 29, 2. 2. 1996, p. 4) and to notify the Commission, in accordance with Article 93 (3) of the Treaty, of any new measures they take with regard to guarantee capital of consortia and cooperatives (Article 8 of Regional Law 29/91 and Article 7 of Regional Law 4/95)

Date of adoption: 2. 10. 1996

Member State: Spain (Murcia)

Aid No: N 473/96

Title: Aid for the marketing of agricultural products

Objective: To promote cooperatives by granting aid to create and launch them, improve management, etc.

Legal basis: Proyecto de decreto por el que se regulan ayudas a entidades asociativas para la comercialización y transformación de productos agrarios

Budget: Pta 200 million (approximately ECU 1 240 000) per year

Aid intensity: Various according to the type of aid

Duration: Three years

Conditions: The Commission reserves the right to re-examine existing aid for starting up cooperatives and recruiting new members pursuant to Article 93 (1) of the Treaty

Date of adoption: 2. 10. 1996

Member State: France

Aid No: N 601/96

Title: Aid and para-fiscal charge for the technical centre for curing, preparation and preserving of meat ('centre technique de la salaison, de la charcuterie et des conserves de viandes'); extension of an existing scheme

Objective: Research, vocational training, technical assistance, particularly through the development of quality standards and technical support by tests, analysis and verification

Legal basis: Projet de décret relatif à la taxe para-fiscale due par les entreprises qui ressortissent du CTSCCV

Budget: Unspecified

Aid intensity: 100 %

Duration: 1. 1. 1997 until 31. 12. 2001

Conditions: The Commission reserves the right to re-examine its position regarding research aid in the light of the amendments it has decided to adopt to the Community rules on State aid for research and development (OJ No C 45, 17. 2. 1996, p. 5)

Date of adoption: 9. 10. 1996

Member State: Germany

Aid No: N 399/96

Title: Changes to the present programme of State aid to German inland navigation; this programme was authorized by the Commission on 26 July 1995

Objective: To make the present programme of aid more effective, in particular by providing commercial training for owner operators in the field of inland navigation and regrouping them in cooperatives; to extend the programme of aid by one year to the end of 1997

Legal basis: Entwurf zur Änderung der 'Richtlinie für die Gewährung von Finanzhilfen an die deutsche Partikularschiffahrt vom 31. Juli 1995'

Budget: The overall budget of DM 160 million in the present programme of aid N 411/95 remains unchanged

Duration: 1996 and 1997

REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION PERIODS

Spain

(97/C 4/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

*(Article 90 (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Community)***Commission notice to Member States and other interested parties concerning the additional implementation periods requested by Spain**

Pursuant to Commission Directive 90/388/EEC, as last amended by Directive 96/19/EC, and in particular Article 2 (2) thereof, the Spanish Government, in a bilateral meeting of 9 October 1996 and further confirmed by letters of 8 and 26 November 1996, has requested the following additional implementation periods concerning Articles 3 and 4a (2) of this Directive:

- until 1 January 1998 (instead of 1 January 1997), as regards the notification to the Commission of licensing schemes for the provision of voice telephony and the establishment of public telecommunications networks, and of the details of the national scheme envisaged to share the net cost of the provision of universal service obligations,
- until 1 August 1998 (instead of 1 July 1997), as regards the publication and entry into force of declaration and licensing procedures for the provision of voice telephony and public telecommunications networks, including the scheme to share the net cost of the provision of universal service obligations,
- until 30 November 1998 (instead of 1 July 1997) to ensure that adequate numbers are available for all operators of telecommunications services in order to give full effect to the liberalization of the Spanish market.

The Spanish Government considers these additional implementation periods necessary for the following reasons:

1. the introduction of competition on 1 January 1998 will oblige Telefónica to speed up the rebalancing of its tariffs which will affect significantly its profit margin up to end 1998;
2. the introduction of competition also requires further capital investment in Telefónica's network, in particular to implement the new numbering plan allowing the granting of adequate numbers to all new entrants. In order to allow Telefónica to spread the

required efforts in time, it is necessary to grant it a time period of at least 10 months between the interconnection of the first operators which will be licensed early January 1998 and the interconnection of all other new operators in the voice telephony market.

As confirmed in its letter of 8 November 1996, the Spanish Government will nevertheless:

- grant early January 1998 a third nation-wide licence to operate voice telephony and public telecommunications networks, in addition to the license which will be granted in the course of 1997 to a second operator,
- authorize cable operators, who apply for it in compliance with the conditions set out in the applicable law and regulations, to provide voice telephony from the beginning of January 1998 onwards, including the possibility to interconnect their networks for this purpose.

The Spanish Government does not seek any derogation for the lifting of restrictions on the provision of already liberalized telecommunications services on:

- (a) networks established by the provider of the telecommunications service;
- (b) infrastructures provided by third parties;
- (c) the sharing of networks, other facilities and sites;

on 1 July 1996 as provided in Article 2 (2) of Directive 90/388/EEC. Consequently such networks can be provided without restrictions.

In addition Spain will abolish foreign ownership requirements in the conditions for licensing telecommunications operators, in line with the Community position in the WTO.

Finally, the Spanish Government confirmed that it would ensure that on 30 November 1998, licenses are granted

effectively, without further conditions, for the provision of voice telephony and public telecommunications networks to all undertakings which applied in the course of August 1998, in compliance with the conditions set out in the law and its implementing regulations.

The Commission will assess the request for additional implementation periods in the light of the argumentation provided by the Spanish Government regarding the investment requirements of Telefónica.

The Commission hereby gives the Member States and other interested parties notice to submit their comments on the measures in question within one month of the publication of this notice.

The comments will be communicated to Spain.

In this context, under the abovementioned Directive, the information provided by the Spanish Government shall be made available to any interested party on demand, except data which should be withheld due to the need for business secrecy.

Member States or other interested parties seeking access to the file, should request this in writing to the address below within three weeks of the publication date of this notice. Interested parties other than Member States must explain why they require access. The file will be available for consultation only in DG IV's premises.

European Commission,
DG IV — C.1,
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200,
C-158 3/48,
B-1049 Brussels,
Fax: (32 2) 296 98 19.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Bureau of the Economic and Social Committee (Second two years of the 10th four-year term of office) (1996-1998)

(97/C 4/04)

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NOTICE TO READERS

Since 1 January 1997, the public contract notices of the Commission will no longer be published in the 'C' series of the Official Journal, but in the *Supplement to the Official Journal* ('S' series) only.

It must also be noted that the publication of the summary table of calls for competitive bidding under the European Development Fund (EDF) is hereby cancelled.

A CD-ROM version of the *Supplement to the Official Journal* is on sale at the various points of sale indicated on page 4 of the cover.

The information contained in the *Supplement to the Official Journal* may also be accessed in real time (TED database).

Further information concerning the TED database may be obtained from the 'gateway' agents below:

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