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EN

Acts whose titles are printed in light type are those relating to day-to-day management of agricultural matters, and are generally valid for a limited period.

The titles of all other Acts are printed in bold type and preceded by an asterisk.

I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 762/98
of 6 April 1998
establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain
fruit and vegetables

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 of 21 December 1994 on detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2375/96⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 4 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92 of 28 December 1992 on the unit of account and the conversion rates to be applied for the purposes of the common agricultural policy⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 150/95⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 3 (3) thereof,

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 lays down, pursuant to the outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the criteria whereby the Commis-

sion fixes the standard values for imports from third countries, in respect of the products and periods stipulated in the Annex thereto;

Whereas, in compliance with the above criteria, the standard import values must be fixed at the levels set out in the Annex to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The standard import values referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 shall be fixed as indicated in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 7 April 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 6 April 1998.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 337, 24. 12. 1994, p. 66.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 325, 14. 12. 1996, p. 5.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 387, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 22, 31. 1. 1995, p. 1.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 6 April 1998 establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

(ECU/100 kg)

CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0702 00 00	052	99,7
	204	81,8
	212	108,5
	624	190,6
	999	120,2
0707 00 05	052	112,5
	999	112,5
0709 10 00	220	174,9
	999	174,9
0709 90 70	052	100,4
	204	98,6
	999	99,5
0805 10 10, 0805 10 30, 0805 10 50	052	39,3
	204	35,1
	212	45,5
	400	46,3
	600	48,7
	624	52,0
	999	44,5
0805 30 10	600	77,4
	999	77,4
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	052	44,7
	060	46,1
	388	91,6
	400	102,4
	404	96,4
	508	86,5
	512	90,3
	524	83,9
	528	84,8
	720	65,8
	804	107,9
	999	81,9
0808 20 50	388	75,2
	508	73,1
	512	73,4
	528	87,7
	999	77,3

⁽¹⁾ Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2317/97 (OJ L 321, 22. 11. 1997, p. 19). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 763/98**of 6 April 1998****closing invitations to tender for the refund on exports of wholly milled rice
opened by Regulations (EC) No 2095/97, (EC) No 2096/97, (EC) No 2097/97 and
(EC) No 2098/97**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European
Community,Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 of
22 December 1995 on the common organisation of the
market in rice ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No
192/98 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 13(3) thereof,Whereas the quantities of rice exported in the 1997/98
marketing year under the invitations to tender for the
export refund opened by Commission Regulations (EC)
No 2095/97 ⁽³⁾, (EC) No 2096/97 ⁽⁴⁾, (EC) No 2097/97 ⁽⁵⁾
and (EC) No 2098/97 ⁽⁶⁾ have reached the forecasts
without exceeding the limits laid down by the Uruguay
Round agreement; whereas those invitations to tender
should be closed;Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are
in accordance with the opinion of the Management
Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*The invitations to tender to determine the export refund
on wholly milled rice opened by Regulations (EC) No
2095/97, No 2096/97, No 2097/97 and No 2098/97 are
hereby closed.*Article 2*This Regulation shall enter into force on the day fol-
lowing 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, 6 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission⁽¹⁾ OJ L 329, 30. 12. 1995, p. 18.⁽²⁾ OJ L 20, 27. 1. 1998, p. 16.⁽³⁾ OJ L 292, 25. 10. 1997, p. 16.⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 292, 25. 10. 1997, p. 19.⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 292, 25. 10. 1997, p. 22.⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 292, 25. 10. 1997, p. 25.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/20/EC

of 30 March 1998

amending Directive 92/14/EEC on the limitation of the operation of aeroplanes covered by Part II, Chapter 2, Volume 1 of Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, second edition (1988)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 189c of the Treaty ⁽³⁾,

(1) Whereas the main purpose of the provisions under Directive 92/14/EEC ⁽⁴⁾ is to restrict the operation of certain types of civil subsonic jet aeroplanes;

(2) Whereas a definition of the key elements of the Directive should prevent any ambiguity as to the objective and the scope of the Directive;

(3) Whereas this Directive does not deprive an individual Member State of the possibility of having recourse to the relevant provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23 July 1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes ⁽⁵⁾ in accordance with their terms;

(4) Whereas, due to the exceptional historical situation of the airports serving the Berlin conurbation and the location of the airports of Berlin Tegel and Berlin Tempelhof close to the city centre, it is justified to exempt temporarily these two airports from the application of certain provisions of Directive 92/14/EEC;

(5) Whereas it is necessary to respect the initial intention of the exemption for aeroplanes on the registers

of developing nations; whereas the relevant provisions of the said Directive should therefore be clarified to that effect;

(6) Whereas an exemption granted for an aeroplane from a developing nation should benefit only that nation;

(7) Whereas it is necessary to clarify the scope for exemptions granted on economic grounds;

(8) Whereas it should be made clear that a Member State can only establish a timetable for the gradual withdrawal of non-compliant aeroplanes in respect of aeroplanes which are on the register of that Member State;

(9) Whereas some Member States have agreements with third country carriers allowing them an exemption for phasing out Chapter 2 aeroplanes similar to that granted to Community air carriers; whereas it is appropriate that these agreements should not be revoked;

(10) Whereas it is essential that the Annex to Directive 92/14/EEC be kept up to date and amended in a timely manner; whereas, therefore, amendments should be drawn up by the Commission assisted by a committee of a regulatory nature;

(11) Whereas Article 3 of Directive 92/14/EEC provides for exemptions for aeroplanes on the registers of developing nations and whereas the aeroplanes so exempted were listed in the Annex to that Directive;

(12) Whereas it is necessary to amend the Annex to Directive 92/14/EEC so as to add certain aeroplanes which qualify for an exemption and were not included when that Directive was adopted; whereas it is also necessary to delete all mention of certain aeroplanes that have been withdrawn from service, destroyed or otherwise no longer qualify for the exemption;

(13) Whereas it is essential to prevent wrong usage of registrations; whereas the Annex to this Directive contains, for each aeroplane, reference to the manufacturers' serial number for the individual aeroplane;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 309, 18. 10. 1996, p. 9.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 66, 3. 3. 1997, p. 4.

⁽³⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 13 March 1997 (OJ C 115, 14. 4. 1997, p. 24), Council Common Position No 42/97 of 9 October 1997 (OJ C 375, 10. 12. 1997, p. 25) and Decision of the European Parliament of 13 January 1998 (OJ C 34, 2. 2. 1998).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 76, 23. 3. 1992, p. 21.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 240, 24. 8. 1992, p. 8. Regulation as amended by the 1994 Act of Accession.

- (14) Whereas it is important to ensure that infringements of Community law are penalised under conditions which make the penalty effective, proportionate and dissuasive;
- (15) Whereas under the 1994 Act of Accession Austria has to comply with the provisions of Directive 92/14/EEC as from 1 April 2002,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Amendments

Directive 92/14/EEC is hereby amended as follows:

1. the following paragraph shall be added to Article 1:

'3. For the purposes of this Directive:

"air carrier" means an air transport undertaking with a valid operating licence;

"operating licence" means an authorisation granted to an undertaking permitting it to carry out carriage by air of passengers, mail and/or cargo for remuneration and/or hire;

"Community air carrier" means an air carrier with a valid operating licence granted by a Member State in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 2407/92 of 23 July 1992 on licensing of air carriers (*);

"total civil subsonic jet fleet" means the total aircraft fleet of civil subsonic jet aeroplanes at the disposal of the air carrier, through ownership or any form of lease agreement of not less than one year.

(*) OJ L 240, 24.8.1992, p. 1.;

2. the following paragraph shall be added to Article 2:

'4. Before the date referred to in paragraph 2, the operation of civil subsonic jet aeroplanes which do not comply with the provision of paragraph 1(a) may be restricted or excluded at the airports of Berlin Tegel and Berlin Tempelhof.;

3. Article 3(b) shall be replaced by the following:

'(b) these aeroplanes were on the register of the developing nation shown for that aeroplane in the Annex in the reference year and continue to be used either directly or under any form of lease agreement by natural or legal persons established in that nation.;

4. the following subparagraph shall be added to Article 3:

'The exemption referred to in the preceding subparagraph shall not apply where the aeroplane is leased to a natural or legal person established in a country other than the one mentioned for that aeroplane in the Annex.;

5. in Article 4, Article 5(c) and (d) and Article 6 'airline' shall be replaced by 'air carrier';

6. Article 7 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 7

1. Member States may limit deletion from their registers of all mention of aeroplanes which do not comply with the standards of Chapter 3 of Annex 16 to an equivalent annual rate of up to 10 % of the total civil subsonic jet fleet of a Community air carrier.

2. Member States shall not apply the provisions of Article 2(1) in respect of aeroplanes retained on the register of a Member State in accordance with paragraph 1.

3. Where a Member State has applied an equivalent exemption to that described in paragraphs 1 and 2 to aeroplanes on the register of a third country and operating into that Member State before this Directive enters into force, the exemption may continue to be recognised subject to compliance by the air carrier with the conditions.;

7. the following Articles shall be inserted:

Article 9a

Amendments to the Annex which may prove necessary in order to ensure full conformity with the criteria set out in Article 3 shall be effected according to the procedure defined in Article 9b(2).

Article 9b

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the committee provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No 3922/91 of 16 December 1991 on the harmonisation of technical requirements and administrative procedures in the field of civil aviation (*), which shall act in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 2.

2. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter. The opinion shall be delivered by the majority laid down in Article 148(2) of the Treaty in the case of decisions which the Council is required to adopt on a proposal from the Commission. The votes of the representatives of the Member States within the committee shall be weighted in the manner set out in that Article. The chairman shall not vote.

3. (a) The Commission shall adopt the measures envisaged if they are in accordance with the opinion of the committee.

(b) If the measures envisaged are not in accordance with the opinion of the committee, or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall, without delay, submit to the Council a proposal relating to the measures to be taken. The Council shall act by a qualified majority.

If the Council has not acted within three months of the date of the referral to it, the Commission shall adopt the measures proposed.

(*) OJ L 373, 31.12.1991, p. 4. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2176/96 (OJ L 291, 14.11.1996, p. 15).;

8. the Annex shall be replaced by the Annex hereto.

Article 2

System of penalties

Member States shall lay down the system of penalties for breaching the national provisions adopted pursuant to this Directive and shall take all the measures necessary to ensure that those penalties are applied. The penalties thus provided for shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Member States shall notify the relevant provisions to the Commission not later than 1 March 1999 and shall notify any subsequent changes as soon as possible.

Article 3

Implementation

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 1 March 1999. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference at the time of their official publication. The procedure for such reference shall be adopted by Member States.

2. In accordance with Article 168 of the 1994 Act of Accession and Annex XIX (III) thereto, Austria shall put into effect the measures necessary to comply with this Directive by 1 April 2002.

Article 4

Entry into force

This Directive shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Article 5

Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 1998.

For the Council

The President

LORD SIMON of HIGHBURY

ANNEX

ANNEX

LIST OF AEROPLANES EXEMPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3

Note: Exemptions for aeroplanes in this Annex are granted within the general framework of the United Nations policies and decisions (e.g. sanctions, embargo, etc.).

ALGERIA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20955	B727-2D6	7T-VEH	Air Algérie
21053	B727-2D6	7T-VEI	Air Algérie
21210	B727-2D6	7T-VEM	Air Algérie
21284	B727-2D6	7T-VEP	Air Algérie
20884	B737-2D6	7T-VEG	Air Algérie
21063	B737-2D6	7T-VEJ	Air Algérie
21064	B737-2D6	7T-VEK	Air Algérie
21065	B737-2D6	7T-VEL	Air Algérie
21211	B737-2D6	7T-VEN	Air Algérie
20650	B737-2D6	7T-VED	Air Algérie
21285	B737-2D6	7T-VEQ	Air Algérie

CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20200	B707-329C	9Q-CBW	Scibe Airlift

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
19767	B707-399C	HI-442CT	Dominicana de Aviación

EGYPT

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
19843	B707-336C	SU-PBA	Air Memphis
19916	B707-328C	SU-PBB	Air Memphis
21194	B737-266	SU-AYK	Egypt Air
21195	B737-266	SU-AYL	Egypt Air
21227	B737-266	SU-AYO	Egypt Air

IRAQ

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20889	B707-370C	YI-AGE	Iraqi Airways
20892	B737-270C	YI-AGH	Iraqi Airways
20893	B737-270C	YI-AGI	Iraqi Airways

LEBANON

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20259	B707-3B4C	OD-AFD	MEA
20260	B707-3B4C	OD-AFE	MEA
19967	B707-347C	OD-AGV	MEA
19589	B707-323C	OD-AHC	MEA
19515	B707-323C	OD-AHD	MEA
20170	B707-323B	OD-AHF	MEA
19516	B707-323C	OD-AHE	MEA
19104	B707-327C	OD-AGX	TMA
19105	B707-327C	OD-AGY	TMA
18939	B707-323C	OD-AGD	TMA
19214	B707-331C	OD-AGS	TMA
19269	B707-321C	OD-AGO	TMA
19274	B707-321C	OD-AGP	TMA

LIBERIA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
45683	DC8F-55	EL-AJO	Liberia World Airlines
45686	DC8F-55	EL-AJQ	Liberia World Airlines

LIBYA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20245	B727-224	5A-DAI	Libyan Arab Airlines
21051	B727-2L5	5A-DIB	Libyan Arab Airlines
21052	B727-2L5	5A-DIC	Libyan Arab Airlines
21229	B727-2L5	5A-DID	Libyan Arab Airlines
21230	B727-2L5	5A-DIE	Libyan Arab Airlines

MAURITANIA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
11093	F28-4000	5T-CLG	Air Mauritanie

MOROCCO

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20471	B727-2B6	CN-CCG	Royal Air Maroc
21214	B737-2B6	CN-RMI	Royal Air Maroc
21215	B737-2B6	CN-RMJ	Royal Air Maroc
21216	B737-2B6	CN-RMK	Royal Air Maroc

NIGERIA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
18809	B707-338C	5N-ARQ	DAS Air Cargo
19664	B707-355C	5N-VRG	Air Tours

PAKISTAN

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20488	B707-340C	AP-AXG	PIA

SAUDI ARABIA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20574	B737-268C	HZ-AGA	Saudia
20575	B737-268C	HZ-AGB	Saudia
20576	B737-268	HZ-AGC	Saudia
20577	B737-268	HZ-AGD	Saudia
20578	B737-268	HZ-AGE	Saudia
20882	B737-268	HZ-AGF	Saudia
20883	B737-268	HZ-AGG	Saudia

SWAZILAND

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
45802	DC8F-54	3D-AFR	African International Airways
46012	DC8F-54	3D-ADV	African International Airways

TUNISIA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
20545	B727-2H3	TS-JHN	Tunis Air
20948	B727-2H3	TS-JHQ	Tunis Air
21179	B727-2H3	TS-JHR	Tunis Air
21235	B727-2H3	TS-JHT	Tunis Air

UGANDA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
19821	B707-379C	5X-JEF	Dairo Air Services

ZIMBABWE

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Operator</i>
18930	B707-330B	Z-WKU	Air Zimbabwe
45821	DC8F-55	Z-WMJ	Affretair'

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 30 March 1998

adopting a multiannual Community programme to stimulate the establishment of the Information Society in Europe (Information Society)

(98/253/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the Commission proposal ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

- (1) Whereas the establishment of the Information Society can, by introducing new forms of economic, political and social relations, help the Community to cope with the challenges of the next century, in particular the creation of new jobs, as indicated in the White Paper on 'Growth, competitiveness and employment — the challenges and ways forward into the 21st century';
- (2) Whereas the European Council in Corfu on 24 and 25 June 1994 took note of the recommendations of the High Level Group on the Information Society as presented in the report 'Europe and the Global Information Society' and the Commission established an action plan consisting of concrete measures at both Community and Member States level;
- (3) Whereas the European Council in Florence on 21 and 22 June 1996 underlined the potential of the Information Society for education and training, for the organisation of work and for employment creation;

- (4) Whereas the pace of progress in the development of the Information Society depends to a large extent on the awareness, understanding and support by citizens and public and private organisations, of the possibilities of applications of new information and communication technologies to service people's and business' needs;
- (5) Whereas the establishment of the Information Society will require availability, for each citizen, company or public organisation, in every part of the Community, of information of any nature they need;
- (6) Whereas the establishment of the Information Society will gradually reorganise the nature and content of human activity in all areas, and have important cross-sectoral effects in areas of activity hitherto independent;
- (7) Whereas the measures necessary for the implementation of the Information Society have to take into account the economic and social cohesion of the Community as well as continuity in the functioning of the internal market;
- (8) Whereas the definition of these measures requires preparatory analyses, aimed at improving understanding of the various fields which may be affected by Community actions related to the Information Society;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 51, 21. 2. 1997, p. 12.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 222, 21. 7. 1997, p. 39.

- (9) Whereas the first interim report of the High Level Expert Group on the Social and Societal Aspects of the Information Society of January 1996 contained a set of first reflections in view of the preparation of a final report;
- (10) Whereas the first annual report of the Information Society Forum to the Commission of June 1996 recommended that the Commission should launch European Union-wide awareness raising initiatives, promote actions best suited for the promotion of best practices, promote the use of new technologies, give extra attention to explore the economic and social implications of the Information Society, and to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to the Information Society;
- (11) Whereas the Commission on 24 July 1996 adopted a Green Paper on 'Living and Working in the Information Society: People First', which is intended to deepen the political, social and civil dialogue on the most important social and societal aspects of the Information Society; in the light of the reactions received, the Commission will present action proposals in 1997;
- (12) Whereas the measures necessary for the implementation of the Information Society have to take into account the global dimension of the Information Society;
- (13) Whereas the G7 Ministerial Conference on Information Society and Development in Midrand, South Africa from 13 to 15 May 1996 recognised that the 'Information Society model' should be pursued for the benefit of the developing countries, to solve their unique needs and challenges, to support their sustainable growth and to ensure their effective participation in the emerging global 'wired' economy;
- (14) Whereas the Rome Conference on 30 and 31 May 1996 recognised that one of the elements of the political dialogue between the Community and the 12 countries involved in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, started in November 1995 with the Barcelona Conference, is indeed the construction of a truly open Information Society in the Mediterranean region which will benefit in terms of growth, competitiveness and employment to users, industries and service providers of information and communication technologies;
- (15) Whereas the second European Union/Central and Eastern European Countries Forum on the Information Society in Prague on 12 and 13 September 1996 confirmed that the issues involved in the development of the Information Society are particularly important to European countries which are reforming their economy and underlined the need to provide platforms for information exchange and discussion;
- (16) Whereas existing possibilities for actions, for example in the fields of research and development, trans-European networks, information content, social policy, and standardisation, should not be duplicated;
- (17) Whereas progress of this programme should be continuously and systematically monitored; whereas at the end of this programme there should be a final assessment of results obtained compared with the objectives set out in this Decision;
- (18) Whereas it is necessary to fix the duration of the programme;
- (19) Whereas a financial reference amount, within the meaning of point 2 of the Declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 6 March 1995, is included in this Decision for the entire duration of the programme, without thereby affecting the powers of the budgetary authority as they are defined by the Treaty;
- (20) Whereas the Treaty does not provide, for the adoption of this Decision, powers other than those defined in Article 235,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

A programme (Information Society) is hereby adopted with the following objectives:

- increasing public awareness and understanding of the potential impact of the Information Society and its new applications throughout Europe, stimulating people's motivation and ability to participate in the change to the Information Society;
- optimising the socio-economic benefits of the Information Society in Europe, by analysing its technical, economic, social and regulatory aspects, by appraising the challenges raised by the transition to the Information Society, *inter alia* as regards employment, and by promoting synergy and cooperation between European and national levels;
- enhancing Europe's role and visibility within the global dimension of the Information Society.

The activities set out in this programme are actions of a cross-sectoral nature, complementing Community actions in other fields. None of these shall duplicate the work being carried out in these fields under other Community programmes. In order to avoid overlap, to complement other initiatives, and to bring complementary expertise into this programme, the relevant Community programmes shall be associated with the development of activities.

The programme should also provide a common framework for complementary and synergetic interaction at European level of the various national/regional/local initiatives for the establishment of the Information Society, in particular, through assistance of the committee provided for in Article 5(1), so as to make use of available facilities and enhance transparency and cooperation at European level, while fully applying subsidiarity.

Article 2

In order to attain the objectives referred to in Article 1, the following categories of actions shall be undertaken:

(a) measures to raise awareness in Europe:

- adding value where necessary to local, national and crossborder initiatives promoting a better understanding, for instance through the dissemination of information, of the opportunities, benefits and possible risks of the Information Society, whether aimed at the general public or at specific target groups,
- gathering and dissemination of information on citizens' and users' needs with respect to Information Society services and applications,
- enhancement of the visibility to the general public and other interested parties of real projects being implemented to service their needs,
- the monitoring of peoples' awareness of and familiarisation with the Information Society services and applications, in particular through the fostering of regular surveys and the integration of national surveys into a European picture,
- stimulation of the interest of industry, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in providing services and applications that meet the needs expressed by citizens and users, for instance, through presentations of Information Society activities, networks, applications and concrete opportunities to be exploited,

- demonstration of the potential impact of the Information Society at regional level, including within its crossborder dimension, the promotion of exchange of relevant information between cities and regions,
- support for the Information Society Forum consisting of experts representing a broad range of interests from industry, academia, media, trade unions, consumer and user groups, advising the Commission on the challenges to overcome for the development of the Information Society;

(b) measures to optimize the socio-economic benefits of the Information Society in Europe:

- the assessment of the opportunities and barriers which disadvantaged social groups and peripheral and less-favoured regions may face in accessing and using Information Society products and services; the identification of appropriate measures to overcome these obstacles and to grasp the related benefits,
- the analysis of current initiatives at European and national level regarding the provision of applications, based in particular on a permanent inventory of projects which facilitate the deployment of the Information Society,
- the provision of transparency, based in particular on a permanent inventory, concerning ongoing policies and programmes at European and national level,
- the contribution, on the basis of identified best programmes and practices, to the European wide take-up of successful examples in Information Society policies, projects and services,
- the promotion of exchange of expertise and experiences between ongoing studies and activities at European and national level,
- the identification and evaluation of the financing mechanisms needed to develop the Information Society, in particular those able to help stimulate public/private partnerships for the deployment of applications of public interest,
- the identification of obstacles to the functioning of the internal market in the area of the Information Society and the consideration of measures to guarantee the full benefit of the area without frontiers for its development, taking into account the linguistic diversity,

- the launching of actions to ascertain the priorities of SMEs and regarding the obstacles hampering the use by SMEs of information and communications technologies (ICT), in close coordination with Commission efforts to mobilise different groups of ICT users,
 - the promotion of electronic literacy in the educational sector through the dissemination of relevant experience gained at national and European level;
- (c) measures to enhance Europe's role and visibility within the global dimension of the Information Society:
- the establishment of an inventory of initiatives taken worldwide,
 - the exchange of information with third countries, in particular with a view to encouraging their access to the potential of the Information Society,
 - the collaboration in the preparation of demonstration actions, either bilaterally or in collaboration with international organisations.

For the various categories of actions above, the work programmes to be defined each year should define the priority work areas and concrete actions, seeking to maximise added value at European level.

Article 3

In carrying out the objectives outlined in Article 1 and the actions defined in Article 2, the Commission may use the appropriate and relevant means, and in particular:

- the award of contracts for the execution of tasks relating to analyses, exploratory studies, detailed studies of specific fields, demonstration actions of limited size, as well as the coordination, evaluation and co-financing of actions,
- the organisation of, the participation in and the granting of support for meetings of experts, conferences, seminars, consultations of persons or of groups having common interests, in particular with a view to encouraging the access of third countries to the potential of the Information Society,
- the publication and the dissemination of information.

Article 4

1. The programme shall cover a period from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2002.
2. The financial reference amount for the implementation of this programme for the abovementioned programme will be ECU 25 million. An indicative breakdown of expenditure is given in the Annex.

3. The Budgetary Authority shall authorise the appropriations within the framework of the annual budgetary procedure and in compliance with the financial perspective.

Article 5

1. The Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of the programme and its coordination with other Community programmes.

The Commission shall be assisted by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the representative of the Commission.

2. The procedure laid down in Article 6 shall apply to:
 - the adoption of the work programme including the extent of funding,
 - the breakdown of the budgetary expenditure,
 - the criteria and content of calls for proposals,
 - the assessment of the projects proposed under calls for proposals for Community funding and the estimated amount of the Community contribution for each project where this is equal to or more than ECU 100 000,
 - the measures for programme evaluation,
 - participation in any project by legal entities from third countries and international organisations.

3. Where, pursuant to the fourth indent of paragraph 2, the amount of the Community contribution is less than ECU 100 000, the Commission shall inform the committee of the projects and of the outcome of their assessment.

4. The Commission shall regularly inform the committee of progress with the implementation of the programme as a whole.

Article 6

The representative of the Commission shall submit to the committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter. The opinion shall be delivered by the majority laid down in Article 148(2) of the Treaty in the case of decisions which the Council is required to adopt on a proposal from the Commission. The votes of the representatives of the Member States within the Committee shall be weighted in the manner set out in that Article. The chairman shall not vote.

The Commission shall adopt the measures envisaged if they are in accordance with the opinion of the committee.

If the measures envisaged are not in accordance with the opinion of the committee, or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall without delay submit to the Council a proposal relating to the measures to be taken. The Council shall act by a qualified majority.

If, on expiry of a period of three months from the date of referral to the Council, the Council has not acted, the proposed measures shall be adopted by the Commission.

Article 7

The Information Society Forum referred to in Article 2(a), final indent, may be called upon by the committee to offer advice or guidance.

Article 8

1. In order to ensure that Community aid is used efficiently, the Commission shall ensure that actions under this Decision are subject to effective prior appraisal, monitoring and subsequent evaluation.

2. During implementation of actions and after their completion the Commission shall evaluate the manner in which they have been carried out and the impact of their implementation in order to assess whether the original objectives have been achieved.

3. The selected beneficiaries shall submit an annual report to the Commission or a final report for projects of short duration.

4. At the end of two years and at the end of the programme, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, once the committee referred to in Article 5(1) has examined it, an evaluation report on the best results obtained in implementing the actions referred to in Article 2. The Commission may present, on the basis of those results, proposals for adjusting the orientation of the programme.

Article 9

Participation in this programme may be open, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6 without financial support by the Community from this programme, to legal entities established in third countries and to international organisations, where such participation contributes effectively to the implementation of the programme and taking into account the principle of mutual benefit.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 1998.

For the Council
The President
LORD SIMON of HIGHBURY

ANNEX

MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Indicative breakdown of expenditure
1998 to 2002

Percentages of total budget by category and year						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total 1998 to 2002
Awareness	9 %	7 %	6 %	5 %	3 %	30 % maximum
Optimisation	11 %	11 %	11 %	12 %	12 %	57 %
International	2 %	2 %	3 %	3 %	3 %	13 % maximum
Percentage of total	22 %	20 %	20 %	20 %	18 %	100 %

CORRIGENDA

Corrigendum to Council Regulation (EC) No 2590/97 of 16 December 1997 replacing the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial and agricultural products

(Official Journal of the European Communities L 355 of 30 December 1997)

On page 2, in the Annex, first and second columns:

<i>for:</i>	'0811 90 50	66
	0811 90 70	67
	ex 0811 90 95	
	ex 0811 90 95'	
<i>read:</i>	'0811 90 50	
	0811 90 70	
	ex 0811 90 95	66
	ex 0811 90 95	67'.

Corrigendum to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2508/97 of 15 December 1997 laying down detailed rules for the application to milk and milk products of the schemes provided for in the Europe Agreements between the Community and the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria and Romania, the Agreements on free trade between the Community and the Baltic States and the Interim Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Slovenia, and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 584/92, (EC) No 1588/94, (EC) No 1713/95 and (EC) No 455/97

(Official Journal of the European Communities L 345 of 16 December 1997)

On page 33, in Article 3:

<i>for:</i>	'... that they have been importing and/or exporting milk ...',
<i>read:</i>	'... that they have been regularly importing and/or exporting milk ...'.