

English edition

## Legislation

Contents

I	<i>Acts whose publication is obligatory</i>	
*	<b>Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000 establishing the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education 'Socrates'</b> .....	1
*	<b>Council Regulation (EC) No 254/2000 of 31 January 2000 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and the Common Customs Tariff</b> .....	16
	Commission Regulation (EC) No 255/2000 of 2 February 2000 establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables .....	19
	Commission Regulation (EC) No 256/2000 of 2 February 2000 fixing the representative prices and the additional import duties for molasses in the sugar sector .....	21
	Commission Regulation (EC) No 257/2000 of 2 February 2000 fixing the maximum export refund for white sugar for the 25th partial invitation to tender issued within the framework of the standing invitation to tender provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1489/1999 .....	23
	Commission Regulation (EC) No 258/2000 of 2 February 2000 fixing the export refunds on white sugar and raw sugar exported in its unaltered state .....	24
*	<b>Commission Regulation (EC) No 259/2000 of 1 February 2000 establishing unit values for the determination of the customs value of certain perishable goods</b> ...	26
	Commission Regulation (EC) No 260/2000 of 2 February 2000 on the issuing of system B export licences for fruit and vegetables .....	32
	Commission Regulation (EC) No 261/2000 of 2 February 2000 fixing the import duties in the rice sector .....	34

**Council**

2000/90/EC:

- \* **Council Decision of 24 January 2000 appointing a Portuguese member and alternate member of the Committee of the Regions** ..... 37

2000/91/EC:

- \* **Council Decision of 24 January 2000 authorising the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of Sweden to apply a measure derogating from Article 17 of the Sixth Council Directive (77/338/EEC) on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes** ..... 38

2000/92/EC:

- \* **Council Decision of 24 January 2000 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol setting out, for the period from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe** 40

Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol setting out, for the period from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe on fishing off the Coast of São Tomé e Príncipe ..... 41

2000/93/EC:

- \* **Decision No 3/1999 of the EU-Czech Republic Association Council of 15 December 1999 amending Protocol 4 on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation to the EU-Czech Republic Europe Agreement** ..... 42

2000/94/EC:

- \* **Decision No 4/1999 of the EU-Slovak Republic Association Council of 23 December 1999 amending Protocol 4 on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation to the EU-Slovak Republic Europe Agreement** ..... 45

**Commission**

2000/95/EC:

- \* **Commission Decision of 20 December 1999 on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community reference laboratories in the veterinary public health field (residues) and amending Decisions 1999/587/EC and 1999/760/EC (notified under document number C(1999) 4678)** ..... 48

2000/96/EC:

- \* **Commission Decision of 22 December 1999 on the communicable diseases to be progressively covered by the Community network under Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under document number C(1999) 4015)** ..... 50

2000/97/EC:

Commission Decision of 18 January 2000 on import licences in respect of beef and veal products originating in Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Namibia (notified under document number C(2000) 117) ..... 54

## I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

**DECISION No 253/2000/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
of 24 January 2000  
establishing the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education  
'Socrates'**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and in particular Articles 149 and 150 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee <sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>(3)</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty <sup>(4)</sup>,

In the light of the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee on 10 November 1999,

Whereas:

- (1) the Treaty establishing the European Community provides that the latter's action shall contribute, *inter alia*, to the development of quality education and training; measures under this programme should promote the European dimension of education and contribute to the development of quality education with a view to encouraging life-long learning;
- (2) by Decision No 819/95/EC the European Parliament and the Council established the Community action programme Socrates <sup>(5)</sup>;
- (3) the extraordinary European Council on employment held in Luxembourg on 20 and 21 November 1997 recognised that lifelong education and training can make an important contribution to the Member States'

employment policies in order to enhance employability, adaptability and the culture of entrepreneurship and to promote equal opportunities;

- (4) in its communication 'Towards a Europe of Knowledge', the Commission set out guidelines for the creation of an open and dynamic European education area capable of achieving the objective of life-long education and training;
- (5) in its White Paper 'Teaching and learning — Towards the learning society', the Commission stated that the emergence of the learning society entails encouraging the acquisition of new knowledge and to this end providing motivation to learn at every opportunity; and in its Green Paper 'Education, training, research: the obstacles to transnational mobility', the Commission highlighted the advantages of mobility for people and competitiveness in the European Union;
- (6) the Commission's aim, in line with the European Parliament's wish, is to attain a participation rate of around 10 % of schools under the Comenius action and of around 10 % of students in the mobility activities under the Erasmus action;
- (7) there is a need to promote active citizenship and to step up the fight against exclusion in all its forms, including racism and xenophobia; special attention should be focused on promoting equality and furthering equal opportunities for women and men; whereas special attention should be given to persons with special needs;
- (8) the European Parliament and the Council, in their Decision on youth, and the Council, in Decision 1999/382/EC on training <sup>(6)</sup>, have established Community action programmes for the youth and training fields respectively, which contribute, together with the Socrates programme, to promoting a Europe of knowledge;

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 314, 13.10.1998, p. 5.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 410, 30.12.1998, p. 2.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ C 51, 22.2.1999, p. 77.

<sup>(4)</sup> Opinion of the European Parliament of 5 November 1998 (OJ C 359, 23.11.1998, p. 60), Council common position of 21 December 1998 (OJ C 49, 22.2.1999, p. 42), Decision of the European Parliament of 25 February 1999 (OJ C 153, 1.6.1999, p. 24) and Decision of the European Parliament of 15 December 1999 (not yet published in the Official Journal). Council Decision of 17 December 1999.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ L 87, 20.4.1995, p. 10. Decision as amended by Decision No 576/98/EC (OJ L 77, 14.3.1998, p. 1).

<sup>(6)</sup> OJ L 146, 11.6.1999, p. 33.

- (9) it is necessary, in order to reinforce the added value of Community action, that the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, should ensure, at all levels, a coherence and a complementarity between the actions implemented in the framework of this Decision and other relevant Community policies, instruments and actions;
- (10) it is necessary to provide for the possibility of organising joint activities involving the Socrates programme and other Community programmes or actions that have an educational dimension, thus encouraging synergies and reinforcing the added value of Community action;
- (11) the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) provides for greater cooperation in the field of education, training and youth between the European Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the countries of the European Free Trade Association participating in the European Economic Area (EFTA/EEA countries), on the other;
- (12) provision should be made to open up this programme to participation of the associated central and eastern European countries (CEEC), in accordance with the conditions established in the Europe agreements, in their additional protocols and in the decisions of the respective Association Councils, of Cyprus funded by additional appropriations in accordance with the procedures to be agreed with that country, as well as of Malta and Turkey, funded by additional appropriations in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty;
- (13) this programme should be regularly monitored and evaluated in cooperation between the Commission and the Member States in order to allow for readjustments, particularly in the priorities for implementing the measures; whereas the evaluation should include an external evaluation to be conducted by independent, impartial bodies;
- (14) in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as defined in Article 5 of the Treaty, since the objectives of the proposed action concerning the contribution of European cooperation to quality education cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, *inter alia*, because of the need for multilateral partnerships, multilateral mobility and Community-wide exchanges of information, they can therefore be better achieved by the Community owing to the transnational dimension of the Community actions and measures; this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve those objectives;
- (15) improvement of the European credit transfer system (ECTS) is an effective means of ensuring that mobility fully attains its objectives; universities participating in the programme are to be encouraged to make the widest possible use of the ECTS;
- (16) this Decision lays down, for the entire duration of the programme, a financial framework constituting the prime reference, within the meaning of point 33 of the interinstitutional agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>, on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure;
- (17) the measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission <sup>(2)</sup>,

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### Article 1

##### Establishment of the programme

1. This Decision establishes the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education, 'Socrates', hereinafter referred to as 'this programme'.
2. This programme shall be implemented over the period starting on 1 January 2000 and ending on 31 December 2006.
3. This programme shall contribute to the promotion of a Europe of knowledge through the development of the European dimension in education and training by promoting life-long learning, based on formal and informal education and training. It shall support the building up of the knowledge, skills and competences likely to foster active citizenship and employability.
4. This programme shall support and supplement action taken by and in the Member States, while fully respecting their responsibility for the content of education and the organisation of education and training systems, and their cultural and linguistic diversity.

#### Article 2

##### Objectives of the programme

In order to contribute to the development of quality education and encourage life-long learning, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States, the objectives of the programme shall be:

- (a) to strengthen the European dimension in education at all levels and to facilitate wide transnational access to educational resources in Europe while promoting equal opportunities throughout all fields of education;
- (b) to promote a quantitative and qualitative improvement of the knowledge of the languages of the European Union, in particular those languages which are less widely used and less widely taught, so as to lead to greater understanding and solidarity between the peoples of the European Union and promote the intercultural dimension of education;

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

- (c) to promote cooperation and mobility in the field of education, in particular by:
- encouraging exchanges between educational institutions,
  - promoting open and distance learning,
  - encouraging improvements in the recognition of diplomas and periods of study,
  - developing the exchange of information,

and to help remove the obstacles in this regard;

- (d) to encourage innovation in the development of educational practices and materials including, where appropriate, the use of new technologies, and to explore matters of common policy interest in the field of education.

#### Article 3

##### Community actions

1. The objectives of this programme as set out in Article 2 shall be pursued by means of the following actions, the operational content and the application procedures of which are described in the Annex:

- Action 1 School education (Comenius);
- Action 2 Higher education (Erasmus);
- Action 3 Adult education and other educational pathways (Grundtvig);
- Action 4 Teaching and learning of languages (Lingua);
- Action 5 Open and distance learning; information and communication technologies in the field of education (Minerva);
- Action 6 Observation and innovation;
- Action 7 Joint actions;
- Action 8 Accompanying measures.

2. These actions shall be implemented through the following types of measures, in the form of transnational operations which may combine several of the measures:

- (a) support for the transnational mobility of people in the field of education in Europe;
- (b) support for the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education;
- (c) support for the development of transnational cooperation networks facilitating the exchange of experience and good practice;
- (d) promotion of language skills and understanding of different cultures;
- (e) support for innovatory pilot projects based on transnational partnerships designed to develop innovation and quality in education;

- (f) constant improvement of Community reference material through the
  - observation and analysis of national education policies,
  - observation and dissemination of good practice and innovation,
  - comprehensive exchange of information.

#### Article 4

##### Access to the programme

1. Under the conditions and arrangements for implementation specified in the Annex, this programme is aimed in particular at:

- (a) pupils, students or other learners;
- (b) staff directly involved in education;
- (c) all types of educational institutions specified by each Member State;
- (d) the persons and bodies responsible for education systems and policies at local, regional and national level within the Member States.

2. Public or private bodies cooperating with educational institutions may also take part in appropriate actions under this programme, in particular:

- local and regional bodies and organisations,
- associations working in the field of education, including students', pupils', teachers' and parents' associations,
- companies and consortia, trade organisations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry,
- social partners and their organisations at all levels,
- research centres and bodies.

#### Article 5

##### Implementation of the programme and cooperation with the Member States

1. The Commission shall

- ensure the implementation of the Community actions covered by this programme in conformity with the Annex,
- consult the social partners and relevant associations in the field of education at European level and shall inform the Committee referred to in Article 8(1) of their opinions.

2. The Member States shall

- take the necessary steps to ensure the efficient running of the programme at Member State level involving all the parties concerned in education in accordance with national practice,
- establish an appropriate structure for the coordinated management of the implementation of the programme's actions at Member State level (Socrates national agencies),

- endeavour to adopt such measures as they deem appropriate to remove legal and administrative obstacles to access to this programme,
- take steps to ensure that potential synergies with other Community programmes are realised at Member State level.

3. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, shall ensure

- the transition between those actions carried out within the framework of the preceding programme in the field of education (Socrates, established by Decision No 819/95/EC) and those to be implemented under this programme,
- the dissemination of the results of the actions undertaken within the framework of the preceding programme in the field of education (Socrates) and of those to be implemented under this programme,
- appropriate information, publicity and follow-up with regard to actions supported by this programme.

#### Article 6

#### Joint Actions

As part of the process of building up a Europe of knowledge, the measures contained in this programme may be implemented in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 8(2) as joint actions with related Community programmes and actions, particularly Leonardo da Vinci and Youth as well as Community programmes in the field of research and development and new technologies.

#### Article 7

#### Implementing measures

1. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to the matters referred to below shall be adopted in accordance with the management procedure referred to in Article 8(2).

- (a) the annual plan of work, including priorities, themes for joint actions and the selection criteria and procedures;
- (b) the financial support to be supplied by the Community (amounts, duration and recipients) and the general guidelines for implementing the programme;
- (c) the annual budget and the breakdown of funds among the different actions of the programme;
- (d) the breakdown of funds among the Member States for the actions to be managed on a decentralised basis;
- (e) the arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the programme and for the dissemination and transfer of results;
- (f) Commission proposals for project selection, including those under action 7 (Joint actions).

2. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to all other matters shall be adopted in

accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 8(3).

#### Article 8

#### Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at two months.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 3 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

4. The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

#### Article 9

#### Cooperation with other programme committees and information on other Community initiatives

1. The Committee shall establish regular and structured cooperation with the Committee set up within the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci action programme for the implementation of a Community vocational training policy as well as with the Committee set up within the framework of the Youth Community action programme.

2. To ensure the consistency of this programme with other measures referred to in Article 11, the Commission shall keep the Committee regularly informed about Community initiatives taken in the fields of education, training and youth, including cooperation with third countries and international organisations.

#### Article 10

#### Funding

1. The financial framework for the implementation of this programme for the period specified in Article 1 is hereby set at EUR 1 850 million.

2. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective.

#### Article 11

#### Consistency and complementarity

1. The Commission shall, in cooperation with the Member States, ensure overall consistency and complementarity with other relevant Community policies, instruments and actions. The programme shall contribute to achieving the aims of Community policy in the areas of equality, equal opportunities for women and men and promotion of social inclusion.

The Commission shall ensure an efficient link-up between this programme and the programmes and actions in the area of education undertaken within the framework of the Community's cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations.

2. In implementing the measures of this programme, the Commission and the Member States shall have regard to the priorities set out in the employment guidelines adopted by the Council, as part of a coordinated employment strategy.

#### Article 12

### **Participation of the EFTA/EEA countries, the associated central and eastern European countries (CEEC), Cyprus, Malta and Turkey**

This programme shall be open to the participation of

- the EFTA/EEA countries in accordance with the conditions established in the EEA agreement,
- the associated central and eastern European countries (CEEC) in accordance with the conditions established in the Europe agreements, in their additional protocols and in the decisions of the respective Association Councils,
- Cyprus, funded by additional appropriations in accordance with procedures to be agreed with that country,
- Malta and Turkey, funded by additional appropriations in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

#### Article 13

### **International cooperation**

Under this programme, and in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8(2), the Commission may cooperate with third countries and with the competent international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe.

#### Article 14

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

1. The Commission shall regularly monitor this programme in cooperation with the Member States. The results of the monitoring and evaluation process should be utilised when implementing the programme.

This monitoring shall include the reports referred to in paragraph 3 and specific activities.

2. This programme shall be evaluated regularly by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States. This evaluation is intended to assess the relevance, effectiveness and

impact of actions implemented with regard to the objectives referred to in Article 2. It will also look at the impact of the programme as a whole.

This evaluation will also examine the complementarity between action under this programme and that pursued under other relevant Community policies, instruments and actions.

In accordance with criteria established using the procedure described in Article 8(2), there will be regular independent external evaluations of this programme.

3. Member States shall submit to the Commission by 31 December 2003 and 30 June 2007, respectively, reports on the implementation and the impact of this programme.

4. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions:

- on the accession of new Member States, a report on the financial consequences of these accessions on the programme, followed, if appropriate, by financial proposals to deal with the financial consequences of these accessions on the programme, in accordance with the provisions of the interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure and with the conclusions of the Berlin European Council of March 1999. The European Parliament and the Council will take a decision on such proposals as soon as possible,
- an interim evaluation report on the results achieved and on the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the implementation of this programme by 30 June 2004,
- a communication on the continuation of this programme by 31 December 2006,
- an *ex post* evaluation report by 31 December 2007.

#### Article 15

### **Entry into force**

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Done at Brussels, 24 January 2000.

For the European Parliament

The President

N. FONTAINE

For the Council

The President

J. GAMA

## ANNEX

## I. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The objectives laid down in Article 2 are to be implemented by means of the actions set out in this Annex on the basis of the Community measures described in Article 3.
2. The provisions relating to the timetable, the conditions for the submission of applications and the eligibility and selection criteria are to be determined in accordance with Article 8(2) and published regularly by the Commission in the 'Socrates Guidelines for Applicants'. In addition calls for proposals will be published, specifying all deadlines for the submission of proposals.
3. In the context of activities involving the mobility of persons, adequate linguistic preparation should be provided in order to ensure that the beneficiaries possess the necessary competence in the language(s) of instruction in the host establishment. Appropriate organisational arrangements should be made at the home and host establishments in order to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from the mobility activity in question.
4. The projects coordinated by universities under the various actions of the programme should form part of the 'institutional contract' of the institutions concerned provided for in Action 2.
5. Supporting measures may be taken to promote access and participation by persons with special educational needs. Where appropriate, positive actions may be taken in order to promote equal opportunities for women and men. Activities giving special emphasis to intercultural aspects or to promoting competence in other languages, in particular the less widely used and less taught languages of the Community, are to be particularly encouraged. The promotion of all types of open and distance learning, as well as the appropriate use of information and communication technology, is to be encouraged across all actions of the programme. Under all actions of the programme, particular attention will be paid to the dissemination of results.

## II. COMMUNITY ACTIONS

This Annex contains two main types of actions:

- the first type, Actions 1 to 3, is aimed at the three basic stages of life-long education (school, university, other);
- the second type, Actions 4 to 8, concerns transversal measures in fields such as languages, information and communication technology (ICT) for educational purposes, including in particular educational multimedia and the exchange of information, as well as matters of horizontal interest such as innovation, the dissemination of results, joint actions and the evaluation of the programme.

ACTION 1: 'COMENIUS': SCHOOL EDUCATION

Action 1.1 **School partnerships**

Action 1.2 **Initial and in-service training of staff involved in school education**

Action 1.3 **Networks related to school partnerships and the training of staff involved in school education**

ACTION 2: 'ERASMUS': HIGHER EDUCATION

Action 2.1 **European interuniversity cooperation**

Action 2.2 **Mobility of students and university teachers**

Action 2.3 **Thematic networks**

ACTION 3: 'GRUNDTVIG': ADULT EDUCATION AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

ACTION 4: 'LINGUA': TEACHING AND LEARNING OF LANGUAGES

ACTION 5: 'MINERVA': OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

ACTION 6: OBSERVATION AND INNOVATION

Action 6.1: **Observation of education systems, policies and innovation**

Action 6.2: **Innovatory initiatives responding to emerging needs**

ACTION 7: JOINT ACTIONS

ACTION 8: ACCOMPANYING MEASURES



## ACTION 1: 'COMENIUS': SCHOOL EDUCATION

Comenius seeks to enhance the quality and reinforce the European dimension of school education, in particular by encouraging transnational cooperation between schools and contributing to improved professional development of staff directly involved in the school education sector, and to promote the learning of languages and intercultural awareness.

**Action 1.1: School partnerships**

1. The Community encourages the creation of multilateral partnerships between schools. Such partnerships may also involve other appropriate bodies, such as teacher training establishments, local institutions and authorities, businesses or cultural establishments as well as parents', pupils' and other relevant organisations.
2. Community financial assistance may be awarded for the following:
  - (a) projects which focus on one or more topics of common interest to the participating schools, involving:
    - the participation of pupils in project preparation and project activities, including project-related mobility where appropriate,
    - the mobility of teachers to prepare and monitor a project or to teach in another Member State, including in-company placements,
    - the development of teaching material and the exchange of good practice;
  - (b) projects aimed specifically at teaching and learning the official languages of the Community, together with Irish (one of the languages in which the Treaties establishing the European Communities are drawn up) and Lëtzeburgesch (a language spoken throughout the territory of Luxembourg), including in frontier regions of the Member States, the official languages of the Community in neighbouring regions of other Member States. The projects may be bilateral, especially where they target one of the less widely used or less widely taught of these languages and should include exchanges of pupils in addition to the activities referred to in point (a);
  - (c) projects aimed at promoting intercultural awareness and in particular those designed to help combat racism and xenophobia or to address the specific needs of the children of migrant workers, gypsies and travellers and occupational travellers;
  - (d) projects addressing issues related to pupils with special educational needs, with particular attention to the integration of such pupils into mainstream schooling.
3. Schools wishing to take part in this action shall submit a brief outline description of the activities which they plan to carry out during the coming school year within the framework of this programme ('Comenius Plan'). The Comenius Plan shall enable the Socrates national agencies to take into account the overall development of European activities of the respective school when carrying out the selection under this action.

**Action 1.2: Initial and in-service training of staff involved in school education**

1. The Community is to support multilateral projects undertaken by establishments and bodies active in the initial or in-service training of staff directly involved in school education. The participation of schools and other players involved in the field of education described in Article 4 of the Decision is to be encouraged, as is the involvement of supervisory bodies at regional and local level, where appropriate.
2. Community financial assistance may be awarded for the following:

Mobility actions:

  - (a) mobility undertaken for the purpose of initial training, including practical training periods, language assistantships and in-company placements;
  - (b) mobility undertaken for the purpose of in-service training and updating the skills of trained school education staff;
  - (c) mobility of limited duration, including immersion courses, for language teachers, staff retraining as language teachers, qualified teachers intending soon to return to employment as language teachers, and teaching staff of other disciplines required or wishing to teach in a foreign language;

Multilateral cooperation projects concerning:

  - (d) contributions to the development of curricula, courses, modules or teaching material in the context of reinforcing the European dimension of school education;
  - (e) training activities and information exchange concerning school management and related services such as guidance and counselling;

- (f) education and training activities and information exchange designed to enhance intercultural awareness in school education or to promote the integration and improved educational achievement of children of migrant workers, gypsies and travellers and occupational travellers;
- (g) activities concerning the training and development of staff involved in the education of pupils at risk and of pupils with special educational needs.

**Action 1.3: Networks related to school partnerships and the training of staff involved in school education**

The Community is to promote the networking of school partnerships and of projects concerned with the training of staff involved in school education, supported within Actions 1.1 and 1.2 respectively, to enable cooperation to take place on subjects of mutual interest, the dissemination of results and good practice and discussion of qualitative and innovatory aspects of school education. The staff training networks are to be developed, where appropriate, in close cooperation with the university 'thematic networks' provided for in the Erasmus action.

**ACTION 2: 'ERASMUS': HIGHER EDUCATION**

Erasmus seeks to enhance the quality and reinforce the European dimension of higher education, to encourage transnational cooperation between universities, to boost European mobility in the higher education sector and to improve transparency and academic recognition of studies and qualifications throughout the Community.

Participating universities conclude 'institutional contracts' with the Commission covering all the Erasmus activities approved. Such contracts will normally be of three years' duration and will be renewable.

**Action 2.1: European interuniversity cooperation**

1. The Community supports interuniversity cooperation activities including the development of innovative projects, carried out by universities in conjunction with partners in other Member States, with the participation, where appropriate, of other players involved in education, as described in Article 4 of the Decision.
2. Community financial assistance may be awarded for the following:
  - (a) the organisation of mobility of students and university teachers;
  - (b) joint development and implementation of curricula, modules, intensive courses or other educational activities, including multidisciplinary activities and the teaching of subjects in other languages;
  - (c) consolidation, extension and further development of the European credit transfer system (ECTS), which is designed to facilitate academic recognition in other Member States.

**Action 2.2: Mobility of students and university teachers**

1. The Community supports transnational mobility activities concerning:
  - (a) students, in accordance with point 2;
  - (b) university teachers, for the purpose of carrying out teaching assignments likely to enhance the European dimension or extend the range of courses offered by the universities concerned.
2. Students who, after completing at least their first year of studies, spend three to 12 months in another Member State within the framework of this Action, will be considered 'Erasmus students', regardless whether they have been awarded financial support in accordance with point 3. Such periods are fully recognised under the interuniversity agreements forming part of the institutional contracts and may include integrated in-company placements where appropriate. The host universities will not charge tuition fees to Erasmus students. Students with special needs will be given particular attention.
3. Community financial assistance may be awarded for:
  - the mobility of students. The Member States may, in awarding Community grants, take appropriate account of the economic situation of applicants. As the Community's contribution covers only part of the cost of students' mobility, Member States are invited to help provide the necessary funds. In this connection, grants or loans available to students in the Member State of origin shall continue to be paid during the period of study in a host Member State;
  - the mobility of university teachers;
  - preparatory measures, in accordance with Section IV B, point 4.

**Action 2.3: Thematic networks**

The Community promotes the development and consolidation of thematic networks, each enabling a large grouping of universities to cooperate on topics relating to one or more disciplines or on other matters of mutual interest in order to disseminate innovation, facilitate the spread of good practice, encourage discussion of qualitative and innovative aspects of higher education, improve teaching methods and stimulate the development of joint programmes and specialised courses. The involvement of representatives of learned societies, professional associations and socioeconomic circles is to be encouraged. Special attention will be paid to the dissemination of results.

**ACTION 3: 'GRUNDTVIG': ADULT EDUCATION AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS**

1. As a complement to Action 1 (school education) and Action 2 (higher education), Grundtvig seeks to encourage the European dimension of life-long learning, to contribute — through enhanced transnational cooperation — to innovation and improved availability, accessibility and quality of other educational pathways, and to promote the learning of languages. The action is thus addressed to people who, at whatever stage of their life, seek access to knowledge and competences within the framework of formal or non-formal education or by means of autonomous learning, thereby increasing their intercultural awareness and employability and enhancing their capacity to progress in education and play a full and active role in society.
2. Community financial assistance may be awarded for transnational projects and initiatives seeking to promote:
  - (a) adults' individual demand for and their participation in life-long learning activities;
  - (b) acquisition or updating of competences for persons lacking basic education and qualifications;
  - (c) the development, exchange and dissemination of innovative educational approaches and good practice, including the development and dissemination of modules and appropriate teaching material;
  - (d) the development of information and support services for adult learners and for providers of adult education, including services related to guidance and counselling;
  - (e) the development of tools and methods for the assessment, validation or certification of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired by adult learners, including by means of experiential or autonomous learning or through non-formal education;
  - (f) improved competence in other Community languages or enhanced international awareness among adult learners and those involved in the provision of adult education;
  - (g) the development of initial or in-service training for educational staff working in this sector;
  - (h) visits and exchanges, for persons including those providing adult education or the training of adult educators;
  - (i) projects addressing adult learners with special educational needs.
3. The Community encourages the creation of European networks to strengthen the links between the various parties involved in this area to enable them to cooperate on a more stable basis on matters of common interest, and to enhance their awareness of the European dimension of education.

**ACTION 4: 'LINGUA': TEACHING AND LEARNING OF LANGUAGES**

1. The aim of the Lingua action is to support transversal measures relating to the learning of languages, with a view to helping to promote and maintain linguistic diversity within the Community, to improve the quality of language teaching and learning and to facilitate access to life-long language learning opportunities tailored to individual requirements. Particular attention is to be given to intensifying transnational contacts in the language teaching profession and among those responsible for language teaching policies throughout the Community in all educational sectors. In this way, Lingua both complements and enriches measures related to the promotion of language-learning under other actions of this programme, in particular Actions 1, 2 and 3.
2. In this context, language teaching covers the teaching and learning as foreign languages of all the official languages of the Community, together with Irish (one of the languages in which the Treaties establishing the European Communities are drawn up) and Lëtzeburgesch (a language spoken throughout the territory of Luxembourg). Special attention shall be paid throughout the programme to promoting the less widely used and less widely taught of these languages.

3. Community financial assistance may be awarded to the following transnational language-learning projects and activities:
  - (a) awareness-raising activities designed to draw attention to the importance of language-learning and the availability of language-learning opportunities;
  - (b) activities seeking to promote and/or spread innovations and good practice, such as the early learning of languages or multilingual comprehension;
  - (c) the development and exchange of curricula, production of new teaching material and improvement of methods and tools for the recognition of language competence;
  - (d) exchange of information and transnational networking of resource centres;
  - (e) the development of measures to promote competence in foreign languages as required in specific situations and contexts, and insofar as these are not related to specific professions;
  - (f) addressing issues related to the teaching and learning of languages arising from further enlargement of the Community.

#### ACTION 5: 'MINERVA' OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

1. The aim of this action is to support transversal measures relating to open and distance learning (ODL) and the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), including multimedia, in the field of education. In so doing, it complements and enriches the corresponding measures provided for within the other actions of this programme.

These measures serve a triple purpose:

- to promote improved understanding among teachers, learners, educational decision-makers and the public at large of the implications of ODL and, in particular ICT for education, and the critical, responsible use of tools and methods which utilise such technologies for educational purposes,
- to support awareness of the need to ensure that pedagogical considerations are given proper weight in the development of ICT-based educational products, notably multimedia, and
- to promote access to improved methods and educational resources and to results achieved, in particular through transnational exchange of information, experience and good practice.

2. Community financial assistance may be awarded for the following:
  - (a) projects and studies aimed at helping those involved in education to understand and exploit the innovative processes under way, in particular those relating to the use of ICT in teaching and learning, the development of innovative instruments and approaches, and methods for establishing criteria for quality assessment of ICT-based educational products and services;
  - (b) projects to develop and test new methods, modules and resources for ODL and ICT;
  - (c) projects for the development and interconnection of services and systems providing information for teachers, decision-makers and other actors involved in education on educational methods and resources which utilise ODL and ICT;
  - (d) activities to support the exchange of ideas and experience relating to ODL and the use of ICT in education, in particular the networking of resource centres, teacher training institutions, experts, decision-makers and project coordinators on subjects of common interest.

#### ACTION 6: OBSERVATION AND INNOVATION

This action contributes to improving the quality and transparency of education systems and furthering the process of educational innovation in Europe through the exchange of information and experience, the identification of good practice, the comparative analysis of systems and policies in this field, and the discussion and analysis of matters of common educational policy interest to be determined by the Council.

**Action 6.1: Observation of education systems, policies and innovation**

1. Making optimal use of existing structures wherever possible, this action consists of the following:
  - (a) collection of descriptive and statistical data, and comparative analysis of educational systems and policies in the Member States;
  - (b) development of methods for evaluating the quality of education, including the development of appropriate criteria and indicators;
  - (c) development and updating of databases and other information resources on innovatory experiments;
  - (d) dissemination of experience resulting from relevant activities supported at Community and Member State level;
  - (e) facilitation of the recognition of diplomas, qualifications and periods of learning at all educational levels in other Member States.
2. To this end, Community financial assistance may be awarded for:
  - (a) the information network on education in Europe, 'Eurydice', comprising the European Unit set up by the Commission and units set up by the Member States to enable it to make a full contribution to the implementation of this action. The network will in particular be called upon to collect and exchange information on education systems and policies, to develop data bases, to produce comparative studies and to draw up indicators. Eurydice will seek, when necessary, relevant support from external experts;
  - (b) the organisation of and participation in 'Arion' multilateral study visits for decision-makers and senior managers of educational institutions in any sector of education, designed to facilitate exchanges of information and experience on subjects of mutual interest to the Member States. The Commission and Member States will ensure appropriate dissemination of the results of the visits and promote their interactivity with other actions within this programme;
  - (c) networking of institutes and other appropriately qualified bodies engaged in analysing educational systems and policies, as well as of the bodies involved in the evaluation of educational quality;
  - (d) studies, analyses, pilot projects, seminars, exchanges of experts and other appropriate actions relating to matters of common educational policy interest bringing together decision-makers on the priority themes to be determined by the Council. The Commission may call upon the services of a group of experts to assist it in ensuring the reliability of the analytical work carried out within the framework of these activities. The arrangements for establishing the group will be determined in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision;
  - (e) activities designed to promote the recognition of diplomas, qualifications and periods of learning, notably studies, analyses, pilot projects and the exchange of information and experience. The Community network of national academic recognition information centres (NARIC) will make a full contribution in this regard. In particular, it will collect and disseminate authenticated information which is necessary for the purpose of academic recognition, also bearing in mind synergies with the professional recognition of diplomas.
3. In implementing this action, close cooperation will be ensured in particular with the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), the European Training Foundation (ETF) and appropriate international organisations, notably the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

**Action 6.2: Innovatory initiatives responding to emerging needs**

In addition to the cooperation activities provided for in the other actions of the present programme, the Community may support transnational projects and studies aimed at helping to develop innovations in one or more specific sectors of education. The subjects to be given priority are to be determined by the Council and reviewed regularly to enable adaptation to the new requirements which emerge during the period covered by this programme.

**ACTION 7: JOINT ACTIONS**

1. In accordance with Article 6 of the Decision, Community support may be provided within the framework of this programme for Joint Actions with other Community programmes and actions promoting a Europe of knowledge, in particular the Leonardo da Vinci and Youth programmes.

2. Such joint actions may be carried out by common calls for proposals on selected themes of common interest which are not exclusively covered by any single programme concerned, to be determined in accordance with Article 8(2), of the Decision and agreed with the committees of the other programmes and actions involved.
3. Appropriate steps will be taken to promote regional and local contact and interaction between the players taking part in this programme and in the Leonardo da Vinci and Youth programmes.

#### ACTION 8: ACCOMPANYING MEASURES

1. Community financial assistance may be awarded to the following initiatives aimed at promoting the objectives of this programme, provided that such initiatives are not eligible for assistance under other actions of the programme:
  - (a) awareness-raising activities to promote cooperation in the field of education, including support for appropriate competitions and other events designed to enhance the European dimension of education;
  - (b) transnational activities carried out by associations and other non-governmental bodies active in the field of education, as well as bodies concerned with educational guidance and counselling;
  - (c) conferences and symposia on innovations in the sectors targeted by the programme;
  - (d) activities aimed at training persons involved in the management of European cooperation projects in the field of education;
  - (e) measures to optimise and disseminate the results of projects and activities carried out with the support of this programme or its previous phase;
  - (f) activities involving cooperation with third countries and with the competent international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe, in accordance with Article 13 of the Decision.
2. Community financial assistance will be provided to support the activities of the Socrates national agencies set up by the Member States in accordance with Article 5 of the Decision, and to ensure the effective monitoring and evaluation of this programme.
3. In carrying out the programme, the Commission may have recourse to experts and to technical assistance organisations, the financing of which may be provided for within the overall financial framework for the programme. Furthermore, the Commission may organise such seminars, colloquia or other meetings of experts as are likely to facilitate the implementation of the programme, and undertake appropriate information, publication and dissemination actions.

### III. SELECTION PROCEDURES

Procedures for the proposal and selection of the activities referred to in this Annex are as follows:

#### 1. Decentralised actions

The following actions, under which the selection decisions are taken by the Member States, are to be considered 'decentralised':

- (a) — Action 1.1 (School partnerships)
  - Action 1.2, point 2(a), (b), (c) (Mobility actions within training partnerships for school educational staff)
  - Action 3, point 2(h) (Visits and exchanges in adult education)
  - Action 6.1, point 2(b) (Arion study visits)
  - preparatory visits under all actions.

Requests for financial assistance submitted under these actions are to be submitted to the Socrates national agencies designated by the Member States in accordance with Article 5 of the Decision. The Member States, with the assistance of the Socrates national agencies, will carry out the selection and allocate financial assistance to the applicants selected in accordance with general guidelines to be established under Article 8(2) of the Decision.

- (b) Action 2.2, point 3 (Mobility of students and university teachers)

The awarding of the financial assistance to students and university teachers for mobility assignments within the institutional contracts mentioned in Action 2.1 and for the organisation of the mobility of students and university teachers will be carried out by Member States with the assistance of the Socrates national agencies designated pursuant to Article 5 of the Decision, taking into account the past performance of the universities concerned, in accordance with general guidelines to be established under Article 8(2) of the Decision.

## 2. Centralised actions

The following actions, under which the selection decisions are taken by the Commission, are to be considered 'centralised':

- (a) — Action 1.2, point 2(d), (e), (f), (g) (Multilateral cooperation activities)
  - Action 3, point 2(a) to (g) and (i) (Multilateral cooperation activities)
  - Action 4 (Lingua)
  - Action 5 (Minerva)
  - Action 6.2 (Innovatory initiatives).

For the selection of projects under these actions, the following procedure will apply:

- (i) project coordinators will submit a project proposal to the Commission and send a copy to the Socrates national agency designated by the respective Member State;
- (ii) the Commission, with the assistance of independent experts will assess the project proposals. National agencies may provide the Commission with their assessment of these proposals;
- (iii) in cases where the Commission's assessment is at variance with the assessment received from the national agency in the coordinating country concerning the quality or appropriateness of the project, the Commission shall, upon request of the Member State, consult with the Member State concerned. The duration of this consultation process shall not exceed two weeks;
- (iv) the Commission will submit to the committee a proposal on the final selection (projects to be supported and amounts to be awarded) in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 8(2) of the Decision;
- (v) after receiving the opinion of the committee, the Commission will establish the list of selected projects and allocate the amounts to be awarded.

In certain cases, owing in particular to the scale and nature of the activities in question, a two-phase procedure may be adopted. In such cases, the procedure set out above is preceded by the submission and selection of pre-proposals. The decision in this regard and the arrangements for the pre-selection will be determined in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision.

- (b) — Action 1.3 (Networks related to school partnerships and the training of staff involved in school education)
  - Action 2.1 (European inter-university cooperation)
  - Action 2.3 (Erasmus thematic networks)
  - Action 3.3 (Networks in adult education)
  - Action 6.1, points 2(a), (c), (d), (e) (Observation)
  - Action 8 (Accompanying Measures)

Project proposals under these actions will be submitted to the Commission. The Commission, in the case of Actions 1.3, 2.3 and 3.3 with the assistance of independent experts, will assess the project proposals. Decisions on the project proposals will be taken by the Commission after receiving the opinion of the committee in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision.

The two-phase procedure referred to in the final paragraph of Section III.2(a) will apply to Actions 1.3, 2.3 and 3.3 under the same conditions as set out in that paragraph.

## 3. Joint actions

Procedures for selection under Action 7 of the programme (Joint Actions) will be determined in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision. Where appropriate, the procedures set out above may be adapted in order to meet the special requirements of the Joint Actions in question. The Commission will make every effort to ensure optimal coordination between these procedures and those adopted within the other Community programmes or actions with which the Joint Actions in question are implemented.

- 4. The Commission, assisted by the Member States, will endeavour to ensure that the selection decisions are made known to applicants at the latest five months after the closing date for submission of applications under the action in question. For projects selected in accordance with the two-phase procedure provided for under point 2(a) and (b), this will only refer to the second stage of the selection (full project proposal).
- 5. The Commission and, in the case of decentralised actions, the Member States will seek to ensure optimal coordination between the procedures and deadlines for submitting and selecting applications for support within this programme and the Community programmes in the fields of vocational training and youth respectively.

#### IV. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

##### A. Decentralised actions

1. The Community funds intended to provide financial support under the actions identified as decentralised in Section III, point 1, are to be allocated among the Member States in accordance with the following formulae:
  - (a) a minimum amount to be determined in accordance with budgetary availability for the action concerned will be allocated to each Member State;
  - (b) the remainder will be allocated to the various Member States on the basis of:
    - (i) the difference in the cost of living between the Member State of origin and the host Member State;
    - (ii) the distance and cost of travel between the Member State of origin and the host Member State to be calculated taking into account the lowest travel price for the journey concerned;
    - (iii) the country's total number of:
      - pupils and teachers in school education for Action 1.1 (School partnerships) and Action 1.2 point 2(a), (b), (c) (Mobility actions within training partnerships for school education staff);
      - students in higher education for Action 2.2, point 3 (Mobility of students). The number of graduates should be limited in its scope as a subsidiary and complementary factor to be determined in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision to qualify, where appropriate, the allocation to the Member States;
      - university teachers for Action 2.2 point 3 (Mobility of university teachers).
2. The Community funds thus distributed are to be administered by the Member States with the assistance of the Socrates national agencies provided for in Article 5 of the Decision.
3. The Commission, acting in cooperation with the Member States, will take the necessary measures to encourage balanced participation at Community, national and, where appropriate, regional level, and, in the case of higher education, across the various fields of study. The proportion allocated to these measures must not exceed 5 % of the annual budget for financing each of the Actions in question.
4. The arrangements for the allocation of funds to each Member State for the mobility activities provided for in Action 3, point 2(h) (Adult education visits and exchanges) and 6.1, point 2, second indent (Arion), for the organisation of the mobility of students and university teachers in accordance with Section III. 1.(b), for the support of preparatory visits and for the preparatory measures referred to in Section IV, point B.4 will be decided upon by the Commission after receiving the opinion of the committee in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision.

##### B. Other provisions

1. Having due regard to the quality and quantity of applications for financial support, the following guidelines will be taken into account when allocating resources in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision:
  - (a) the resources to be committed under Action 1 (Comenius) will not be less than 27 % of the total budget available for this programme;
  - (b) the resources to be committed under Action 2 (Erasmus) will not be less than 51 % of the total budget available for this programme;
  - (c) the resources to be committed under Action 3 (Grundtvig) will not be less than 7 % of the total budget available for this programme;
  - (d) the resources to be committed for financial assistance for the Socrates national agencies under Action 8.2 and for technical assistance under Action 8.3 will not exceed 4,5 % of the total annual budget available for this programme.

The above percentages are indicative and may be adapted in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision.

2. As a general rule, Community financial assistance granted for projects under this programme is intended partially to offset the estimated cost necessary to carry out the activities concerned and may cover a maximum period of three years, subject to a periodic review of progress achieved. The Community contribution will not normally exceed 75 % of the total cost of any specific project, except in the case of accompanying measures. Assistance may be granted in advance to enable preparatory visits to take place in respect of the projects in question.

The amount to be made available in the annual budget of the programme for activities under Action 8.1 (f) shall not exceed EUR 250 000.



3. The specific situation of persons with special needs will be taken into account when determining the amount of Community financial assistance to be awarded.
4. With regard to activities involving the mobility of persons, Community financial assistance may be awarded to help ensure adequate preparation for the period to be spent in another Member State. Such preparatory measures may include in particular language courses, information on social and cultural aspects of the host Member State, etc.

## V. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Decision:

1. 'company' means all companies in the public or private sector whatever their size, legal status or the economic sector in which they operate, and all types of economic activities, including the social economy;
  2. 'decision-makers' means any category of staff with managerial, assessment, training, guidance and inspection duties in the field of education and persons responsible for this area at local, regional and national level and within ministries;
  3. 'guidance and counselling' means a range of activities such as information, assessment, orientation and advice to assist learners to make choices relating to education and training programmes or employment opportunities;
  4. 'life-long learning' means the education and training opportunities offered to individuals throughout their lives to enable them continually to acquire, update and adapt their knowledge, skills and competences;
  5. 'open and distance learning' means any form of flexible education, whether or not involving the use of information and communication technologies;
  6. 'project' means transnational cooperation activity developed jointly by a formal or informal grouping of organisations or institutions;
  7. 'pupil' means persons enrolled in that capacity at a 'school' as defined in this Annex;
  8. 'resource centre' means a body engaged in the production, collection or dissemination of documentation, materials or methodologies relating to a sector of activity addressed by this programme, such as languages or information and communication technologies related to education;
  9. 'school' means all types of institutions providing general (nursery, primary or secondary), vocational or technical education and, exceptionally, in the case of measures to promote language learning, non-school institutions providing apprenticeship training;
  10. 'social partners' means, at national level, employers' and workers' organisations in conformity with national laws and/or practices and, at Community level, employers' and workers' organisations taking part in the social dialogue at Community level;
  11. 'student' means persons registered in 'universities' as defined by this Annex, whatever their field of study, in order to follow higher education studies leading to a degree or diploma, up to and including the level of doctorate;
  12. 'teacher/educational staff' means persons who, through their duties, are involved directly in the educational process in the Member States, in accordance with the organisation of their respective education system;
  13. 'university' means any type of higher education institution, according to national legislation or practice, which offers qualifications or diplomas at that level, whatever such establishments may be called in the Member States;
  14. 'university teacher' means any category of personnel employed in that capacity at a 'university' as defined in this Annex.
-

**COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 254/2000**  
**of 31 January 2000**  
**amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and the Common Customs Tariff**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, in particular Articles 26 and 133 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 <sup>(1)</sup>, provides the legal basis for the establishment and management of the Combined Nomenclature, the Common Customs Tariff and the Integrated Tariff of the Communities (Taric);
- (2) It is appropriate to modernise and to simplify the presentation and the management of Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 as envisaged by the SLIM initiative (Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market);
- (3) The data contained in Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 and other data published by virtue of the said Regulation, and in particular Articles 6 and 9 thereof, should, whenever possible, also be made available to the public in electronic format;
- (4) The schedule of customs duties in Annex I, Part II, to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 includes in columns 3 and 4 respectively the autonomous and the conventional duty rates; with a view to rationalising and simplifying the use of this schedule, only one of these columns should be maintained and this column should reflect the conventional duty rates; any exception from the application of a conventional rate of duty by autonomous measures should nevertheless be indicated;
- (5) Statistical requirements are normally covered at the level of the Combined Nomenclature; in order to limit the number of CN subheadings and to avoid parallel data collection systems it is, in certain cases, more appropriate to satisfy such requirements by creating Taric subdivisions for statistical purposes;
- (6) A code of conduct for managing the CN has been established in order to limit the unjustified growth in the number of CN codes and statistical subdivisions of the Taric;
- (7) The current definition of the Taric, the coverage of its measures, the composition of its codes and the description of its management, data transmission and publica-

tion should be revised in order to take account of recent developments;

- (8) The collaboration of Member States' customs laboratories should be encouraged in order to ensure a uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff and the Taric;
- (9) The Customs Tariff of the European Communities has been defined by Article 20(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code <sup>(2)</sup>; it is consequently no longer necessary to provide a definition of the Common Customs Tariff in this Regulation; the use of the Combined Nomenclature for external trade statistics has already been set out in Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 and in Article 8 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 of 22 May 1995 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Member States with non-member countries <sup>(3)</sup>; Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 can therefore be deleted;
- (10) 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 Community Customs Code <sup>(4)</sup>, sets out the rules for the codes to be entered in customs declarations at Community and Member State level;
- (11) The measures necessary for the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission <sup>(5)</sup>,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 1(1) shall be replaced by the following:

'1. A goods nomenclature, hereinafter called the "Combined Nomenclature", or in abbreviated form "CN", which meets at one and the same time, the requirements of the Common Customs Tariff, the external trade statistics of the Community and other Community policies concerning the importation or exportation of goods shall be established by the Commission.'

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 256, 7.9.1987, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2204/1999 (OJ L 278, 28.10.1999, p. 1).

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 302, 19.10.1992, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 955/1999 (OJ L 119, 7.5.1999, p. 1).

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 118, 25.5.1995, p. 10. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 374/98 (OJ L 48, 19.2.1998, p. 1).

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1662/1999 (OJ L 197, 29.7.1999, p. 25).

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

2. Article 1(3) shall be replaced by the following:

'3. The Combined Nomenclature is reproduced in Annex I. The rates of duty of the Common Customs Tariff and, where applicable, the supplementary statistical units as well as other necessary information are laid down in the said Annex.

The Annex comprises the conventional rates of duty.

However, whenever autonomous rates of duty are lower than the conventional rates of duty or where conventional rates of duty do not apply, the autonomous rates are also shown in the said Annex.'

3. Article 2 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 2

An Integrated Tariff of the European Communities, hereinafter referred to as the "Taric", which meets the requirements of the Common Customs Tariff, external trade statistics, the commercial, agricultural and other Community policies concerning the importation or exportation of goods, shall be established by the Commission.

The tariff shall be based on the Combined Nomenclature and include:

- (a) the measures contained in this Regulation;
- (b) the additional Community subdivisions, referred to as "Taric subheadings", which are needed for the implementation of specific Community measures listed in Annex II;
- (c) any other information necessary for the implementation or management of the Taric codes and additional codes as defined in Article 3(2) and (3);
- (d) the rates of customs duty and other import and export charges, including duty exemptions and preferential tariff rates applicable to specific goods on importation or exportation;
- (e) measures shown in Annex II applicable on the importation and exportation of specific goods.'

4. Article 4 shall be deleted;

5. Article 5 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 5

1. The Taric shall be used by the Commission and the Member States for the application of Community measures concerning importation into and exportation from the Community.

2. Taric codes and Taric additional codes shall be applied to the importation and, where applicable, to the exportation of goods covered by the corresponding subheadings.

3. Member States may add subdivisions or additional codes for national purposes. Identifying codes shall be assigned to such subdivisions or additional codes in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93.'

6. Article 6 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 6

The Taric shall be established, updated, managed and disseminated by the Commission, which shall, wherever possible, use computerised means. The Commission shall, in particular, take the necessary steps to:

- (a) integrate all measures contained in this Regulation or shown in Annex II thereto into the Taric,
- (b) attribute Taric codes and Taric additional codes,
- (c) update the Taric immediately,
- (d) disseminate in electronic format changes to the Taric immediately.'

7. In Article 9(1), subparagraph (a) shall be replaced by the following:

- '(a) application of the Combined Nomenclature and the Taric, concerning in particular:
- the classification of goods in the nomenclatures referred to in Article 8;
  - explanatory notes;
  - the creation, if necessary, and for the purpose of responding to the Community's own needs, of statistical subheadings in the Taric, when to do so appears more appropriate than in the CN';

8. In Article 9(1), subparagraph (g) shall be replaced by the following:

- '(g) questions relating to the application, functioning and management of the harmonised system to be discussed within the Customs Cooperation Council, as well as their implementation by the Community.'

9. Article 9(2) shall be replaced by the following:

'2. The provisions adopted under paragraph 1 shall not amend:

- the rates of customs duties;
- agricultural duties, refunds or other amounts applicable within the framework of the common agricultural policy or within that of specific schemes applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products;
- quantitative restrictions laid down under Community provisions;
- nomenclatures adopted within the framework of the common agricultural policy.'

10. Article 10 shall be replaced by the following:

*Article 10*

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Customs Code Committee set up by Article 247 of Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 (\*).

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC (\*\*) shall apply.

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

(\*) OJ L 302, 19.10.1992, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 955/1999 (OJ L 119, 7.5.1999, p. 1).

(\*\*) OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.;

11. Article 12 shall be replaced by the following:

*Article 12*

1. The Commission shall adopt each year, a regulation reproducing the complete version of the Combined Nomenclature, together with the rates of duty in accordance with Article 1, as resulting from measures adopted

by the Council or the Commission. The said Regulation shall be published not later than 31 October in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and it shall apply from 1 January of the following year.

2. Measures and information concerning the Common Customs Tariff or Taric shall, whenever possible, be disseminated in electronic format by using computerised means.

3. In order to ensure the uniform application of the Common Customs Tariff and the Taric, the Commission shall promote coordination and harmonisation of practices in Member States' customs laboratories, using wherever possible, computerised means.;

12. Article 13 shall be deleted.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall apply from 1 January 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 31 January 2000.

*For the Council*

*The President*

J. PINA MOURA

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 255/2000**  
**of 2 February 2000**  
**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 <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1498/98 <sup>(2)</sup>, and in particular Article 4 (1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 lays down, pursuant to the outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the criteria whereby the Commission fixes the standard values for imports from third countries, in respect of the products and periods stipulated in the Annex thereto.

- (2) 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 3 February 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2000.

*For the Commission*  
Franz FISCHLER  
*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 337, 24.12.1994, p. 66.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 198, 15.7.1998, p. 4.

## ANNEX

**to the Commission Regulation of 2 February 2000 establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables**

(EUR/100 kg)

CN code	Third country code (!)	Standard import value
0702 00 00	052	109,0
	204	59,8
	624	201,5
	999	123,4
0707 00 05	052	120,7
	628	166,1
	999	143,4
0709 10 00	220	182,4
	999	182,4
0709 90 70	052	128,2
	204	95,2
	628	146,6
	999	123,3
0805 10 10, 0805 10 30, 0805 10 50	052	31,2
	204	39,0
	212	33,9
	600	37,7
	624	65,6
	999	41,5
0805 20 10	204	59,1
	999	59,1
0805 20 30, 0805 20 50, 0805 20 70, 0805 20 90	052	79,8
	204	71,4
	464	136,2
	624	75,9
	999	90,8
0805 30 10	052	52,0
	600	70,2
	624	66,2
	999	62,8
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	039	83,4
	400	83,7
	404	87,0
	720	63,3
	728	73,7
	999	78,2
	0808 20 50	064
388		132,3
400		112,2
528		89,6
720		89,0
999		98,6

(!) Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2543/1999 (OJ L 307, 2.12.1999, p. 46). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 256/2000****of 2 February 2000****fixing the representative prices and the additional import duties for molasses in the sugar sector**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999 of 13 September 1999 on the common organization of the market in sugar <sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1422/95 of 23 June 1995 laying down detailed rules of application for imports of molasses in the sugar sector and amending Regulation (EEC) No 785/68 <sup>(2)</sup>, and in particular Articles 1(2) and 3(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 1422/95 stipulates that the cif import price for molasses, hereinafter referred to as the 'representative price', should be set in accordance with Commission Regulation (EEC) No 785/68 <sup>(3)</sup>; that price should be fixed for the standard quality defined in Article 1 of the above Regulation;
- (2) the representative price for molasses is calculated at the frontier crossing point into the Community, in this case Amsterdam; that price must be based on the most favourable purchasing opportunities on the world market established on the basis of the quotations or prices on that market adjusted for any deviations from the standard quality; the standard quality for molasses is defined in Regulation (EEC) No 785/68;
- (3) when the most favourable purchasing opportunities on the world market are being established, account must be taken of all available information on offers on the world market, on the prices recorded on important third-country markets and on sales concluded in international trade of which the Commission is aware, either directly or through the Member States; under Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 785/68, the Commission may for this purpose take an average of several prices as a basis, provided that this average is representative of actual market trends;
- (4) the information must be disregarded if the goods concerned are not of sound and fair marketable quality or if the price quoted in the offer relates only to a small

quantity that is not representative of the market; offer prices which can be regarded as not representative of actual market trends must also be disregarded;

- (5) if information on molasses of the standard quality is to be comparable, prices must, depending on the quality of the molasses offered, be increased or reduced in the light of the results achieved by applying Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 785/68;
- (6) a representative price may be left unchanged by way of exception for a limited period if the offer price which served as a basis for the previous calculation of the representative price is not available to the Commission and if the offer prices which are available and which appear not to be sufficiently representative of actual market trends would entail sudden and considerable changes in the representative price;
- (7) where there is a difference between the trigger price for the product in question and the representative price, additional import duties should be fixed under the conditions set out in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1422/95; should the import duties be suspended pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1422/95, specific amounts for these duties should be fixed;
- (8) application of these provisions will have the effect of fixing the representative prices and the additional import duties for the products in question as set out in the Annex to this Regulation;
- (9) the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Sugar,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

The representative prices and the additional duties applying to imports of the products referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1422/95 are fixed in the Annex hereto.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 February 2000.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 252, 25.9.1999, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 141, 24.6.1995, p. 12.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 145, 27.6.1968, p. 12.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2000.

*For the Commission*  
 Franz FISCHLER  
 Member of the Commission

---

ANNEX

**fixing the representative prices and additional import duties applying to imports of molasses in the sugar sector**

(in EUR)

CN code	Amount of the representative price in 100 kg net of the product in question	Amount of the additional duty in 100 kg net of the product in question	Amount of the duty to be applied to imports in 100 kg net of the product in question because of suspension as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1422/95 <sup>(2)</sup>
1703 10 00 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,21	0,00	—
1703 90 00 <sup>(1)</sup>	7,52	0,00	—

<sup>(1)</sup> For the standard quality as defined in Article 1 of amended Regulation (EEC) No 785/68.

<sup>(2)</sup> This amount replaces, in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1422/95, the rate of the Common Customs Tariff duty fixed for these products.



**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 257/2000****of 2 February 2000****fixing the maximum export refund for white sugar for the 25th partial invitation to tender issued within the framework of the standing invitation to tender provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1489/1999**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999 of 13 September 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 18(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1489/1999 of 7 July 1999 on a standing invitation to tender to determine levies and/or refunds on exports of white sugar <sup>(2)</sup>, requires partial invitations to tender to be issued for the export of this sugar;
- (2) pursuant to Article 9(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1489/1999 a maximum export refund shall be fixed, as the case may be, account being taken in particular of the state and foreseeable development of the Community

and world markets in sugar, for the partial invitation to tender in question;

- (3) following an examination of the tenders submitted in response to the 25th partial invitation to tender, the provisions set out in Article 1 should be adopted;
- (4) the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Sugar,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

For the 25th partial invitation to tender for white sugar issued pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1489/1999 the maximum amount of the export refund is fixed at EUR 51,900/100 kg.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 February 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2000.

*For the Commission*  
Franz FISCHLER  
*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 252, 25.9.1999, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 172, 8.7.1999, p. 27.

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 258/2000****of 2 February 2000****fixing the export refunds on white sugar and raw sugar exported in its unaltered state**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999 of 13 September 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 18(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999 provides that the difference between quotations or prices on the world market for the products listed in Article 1(1)(a) of that Regulation and prices for those products within the Community may be covered by an export refund;
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999 provides that when refunds on white and raw sugar, undenatured and exported in its unaltered state, are being fixed account must be taken of the situation on the Community and world markets in sugar and in particular of the price and cost factors set out in Article 19 of that Regulation; whereas the same Article provides that the economic aspect of the proposed exports should also be taken into account;
- (3) the refund on raw sugar must be fixed in respect of the standard quality; the latter is defined in Article 1 of Council Regulation (EC) No 431/68 of 9 April 1968 determining the standard quality for raw sugar and fixing the Community frontier crossing point for calculating cif prices for sugar <sup>(2)</sup>, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 3290/94 <sup>(3)</sup>; furthermore, this refund should be fixed in accordance with Article 19(4) of Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999; candy sugar is defined in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2135/95 of 7 September 1995 laying down detailed rules of application for the grant of

export refunds in the sugar sector <sup>(4)</sup>; the refund thus calculated for sugar containing added flavouring or colouring matter must apply to their sucrose content and, accordingly, be fixed per 1 % of the said content;

- (4) the world market situation or the specific requirements of certain markets may make it necessary to vary the refund for sugar according to destination;
- (5) in special cases, the amount of the refund may be fixed by other legal instruments;
- (6) the refund must be fixed every two weeks; whereas it may be altered in the intervening period;
- (7) it follows from applying the rules set out above to the present situation on the market in sugar and in particular to quotations or prices for sugar within the Community and on the world market that the refund should be as set out in the Annex hereto;
- (8) the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Sugar,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

The export refunds on the products listed in Article 1(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999, undenatured and exported in the natural state, are hereby fixed to the amounts shown in the Annex hereto.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 February 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2000.

*For the Commission*

Franz FISCHLER

*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 252, 25.9.1999, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 89, 10.4.1968, p. 3.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 349, 31.12.1994, p. 105.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 214, 8.9.1995, p. 16.

## ANNEX

**to the Commission Regulation of 2 February 2000 fixing the export refunds on white sugar and raw sugar exported in its unaltered state**

Product code	Amount of refund
	— EUR/100 kg —
1701 11 90 9100	43,33 <sup>(1)</sup>
1701 11 90 9910	42,19 <sup>(1)</sup>
1701 11 90 9950	<sup>(2)</sup>
1701 12 90 9100	43,33 <sup>(1)</sup>
1701 12 90 9910	42,19 <sup>(1)</sup>
1701 12 90 9950	<sup>(2)</sup>
	— EUR/1 % of sucrose × 100 kg —
1701 91 00 9000	0,4710
	— EUR/100 kg —
1701 99 10 9100	47,10
1701 99 10 9910	48,08
1701 99 10 9950	45,86
	— EUR/1 % of sucrose × 100 kg —
1701 99 90 9100	0,4710

<sup>(1)</sup> Applicable to raw sugar with a yield of 92 %; if the yield is other than 92 %, the refund applicable is calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 2038/1999.

<sup>(2)</sup> Fixing suspended by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2689/85 (OJ L 255, 26.9.1985, p. 12), as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3251/85 (OJ L 309, 21.11.1985, p. 14).

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 259/2000**  
**of 1 February 2000**  
**establishing unit values for the determination of the customs value of certain perishable goods**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 955/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to 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 Community Customs Code <sup>(3)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1662/1999 <sup>(4)</sup>, and in particular Article 173 (1) thereof,

(1) Whereas Articles 173 to 177 of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 provide that the Commission shall periodically establish unit values for the products referred to in the classification in Annex 26 to that Regulation;

(2) Whereas the result of applying the rules and criteria laid down in the abovementioned Articles to the elements communicated to the Commission in accordance with Article 173 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 is that unit values set out in the Annex to this Regulation should be established in regard to the products in question,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

The unit values provided for in Article 173 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 are hereby established as set out in the table in the Annex hereto.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on 4 February 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 1 February 2000.

*For the Commission*

Erkki LIIKANEN

*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 302, 19.10.1992, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 119, 7.5.1999, p. 1.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 197, 29.7.1999, p. 25.

## ANNEX

Code	Description Species, varieties, CN code	Amount of unit values per 100 kg						
		a) b) c)	EUR FIM SEK	ATS FRF BEF/LUF	DEM IEP GBP	DKK ITL	GRD NLG	ESP PTE
1.10	New potatoes 0701 90 51 0701 90 59	a) b) c)	53,37 317,31 454,91	734,36 350,07 2 152,86	104,38 42,03 32,29	397,19 103 334,66	17 707,47 117,61	8 879,67 10 699,30
1.30	Onions (other than seed) 0703 10 19	a) b) c)	13,83 82,24 117,91	190,34 90,73 558,00	27,05 10,89 8,37	102,95 26 783,26	4 589,59 30,48	2 301,52 2 773,15
1.40	Garlic 0703 20 00	a) b) c)	94,74 563,31 807,59	1 303,69 621,47 3 821,91	185,30 74,62 57,33	705,12 183 447,25	31 435,59 208,79	15 763,84 18 994,19
1.50	Leeks ex 0703 90 00	a) b) c)	43,46 258,37 370,41	597,96 285,05 1 752,99	84,99 34,22 26,29	323,42 84 141,39	14 418,50 95,76	7 230,37 8 712,03
1.60	Cauliflowers 0704 10 10 0704 10 05 0704 10 80	a) b) c)	55,28 328,68 471,21	760,67 362,61 2 229,99	108,12 43,54 33,45	411,42 107 037,01	18 341,90 121,82	9 197,82 11 082,64
1.70	Brussels sprouts 0704 20 00	a) b) c)	59,69 354,90 508,80	821,35 391,54 2 407,89	116,74 47,01 36,12	444,24 115 575,96	19 805,14 131,54	9 931,58 11 966,77
1.80	White cabbages and red cabbages 0704 90 10	a) b) c)	45,53 270,69 388,07	626,46 298,63 1 836,54	89,04 35,86 27,55	338,83 88 151,79	15 105,73 100,33	7 574,99 9 127,26
1.90	Sprouting broccoli or calabrese ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> <i>L. convar. botrytis</i> (L.) Alef var. <i>italica</i> Plenck) ex 0704 90 90	a) b) c)	105,95 629,95 903,12	1 457,90 694,99 4 274,01	207,22 83,44 64,11	788,53 205 147,81	35 154,21 233,48	17 628,60 21 241,07
1.100	Chinese cabbage ex 0704 90 90	a) b) c)	94,50 561,87 805,52	1 300,35 619,88 3 812,12	184,83 74,42 57,18	703,32 182 977,51	31 355,10 208,25	15 723,48 18 945,55
1.110	Cabbage lettuce (head lettuce) 0705 11 10 0705 11 05 0705 11 80	a) b) c)	152,67 907,73 1 301,36	2 100,79 1 001,45 6 158,69	298,60 120,24 92,38	1 136,25 295 610,34	50 655,91 336,44	25 402,15 30 607,59
1.120	Endives ex 0705 29 00	a) b) c)	21,82 129,74 185,99	300,25 143,13 880,22	42,68 17,18 13,20	162,40 42 249,41	7 239,88 48,08	3 630,54 4 374,52
1.130	Carrots ex 0706 10 00	a) b) c)	64,84 385,53 552,71	892,25 425,34 2 615,72	126,82 51,07 39,24	482,59 125 551,62	21 514,58 142,89	10 788,80 12 999,65
1.140	Radishes ex 0706 90 90	a) b) c)	103,10 612,99 878,80	1 418,64 676,27 4 158,92	201,64 81,20 62,38	767,30 199 623,43	34 207,55 227,20	17 153,88 20 669,07
1.160	Peas ( <i>Pisum sativum</i> ) 0708 10 90 0708 10 20 0708 10 95	a) b) c)	374,00 2 223,73 3 188,01	5 146,41 2 453,31 15 087,30	731,49 294,55 226,31	2 783,53 724 173,31	124 094,63 824,20	62 229,08 74 981,13

Code	Description Species, varieties, CN code	Amount of unit values per 100 kg						
		a) b) c)	EUR FIM SEK	ATS FRF BEF/LUF	DEM IEP GBP	DKK ITL	GRD NLG	ESP PTE
1.170	Beans:							
1.170.1	Beans ( <i>Vigna</i> spp., <i>Phaseolus</i> spp.) ex 0708 20 90 ex 0708 20 20 ex 0708 20 95	a) b) c)	179,92 1 069,77 1 533,66	2 475,80 1 180,22 7 258,08	351,90 141,70 108,87	1 339,08 348 379,70	59 698,48 396,50	29 936,68 36 071,34
1.170.2	Beans ( <i>Phaseolus</i> spp., <i>vulgaris</i> var. <i>Compressus</i> Savi) ex 0708 20 90 ex 0708 20 20 ex 0708 20 95	a) b) c)	206,51 1 227,86 1 760,30	2 841,65 1 354,62 8 330,63	403,90 162,64 124,96	1 536,96 399 860,67	68 520,28 455,09	34 360,51 41 401,70
1.180	Broad beans ex 0708 90 00	a) b) c)	157,74 937,88 1 344,58	2 170,55 1 034,71 6 363,22	308,51 124,23 95,45	1 173,98 305 427,23	52 338,13 347,61	26 245,73 31 624,03
1.190	Globe artichokes 0709 10 00	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
1.200	Asparagus:							
1.200.1	— green ex 0709 20 00	a) b) c)	393,41 2 339,12 3 353,44	5 413,47 2 580,61 15 870,20	769,45 309,84 238,05	2 927,97 761 751,66	130 534,07 866,97	65 458,23 78 872,00
1.200.2	— other ex 0709 20 00	a) b) c)	491,69 2 923,45 4 191,16	6 765,79 3 225,27 19 834,69	961,66 387,24 297,52	3 659,40 952 042,66	163 142,41 1 083,54	81 810,17 98 574,79
1.210	Aubergines (eggplants) 0709 30 00	a) b) c)	172,13 1 023,42 1 467,20	2 368,51 1 129,07 6 943,55	336,65 135,56 104,15	1 281,05 333 282,60	57 111,44 379,32	28 639,37 34 508,18
1.220	Ribbed celery ( <i>Apium graveolens</i> L., var. <i>dulce</i> (Mill.) Pers.) ex 0709 40 00	a) b) c)	81,25 483,11 692,61	1 118,08 532,99 3 277,77	158,92 63,99 49,17	604,73 157 329,49	26 960,04 179,06	13 519,51 16 289,94
1.230	Chantarelles 0709 51 30	a) b) c)	1 699,80 10 106,55 14 489,10	23 389,76 11 149,96 68 569,76	3 324,52 1 338,70 1 028,55	12 650,76 3 291 271,75	563 993,64 3 745,87	282 822,92 340 779,30
1.240	Sweet peppers 0709 60 10	a) b) c)	164,18 976,16 1 399,45	2 259,13 1 076,93 6 622,90	321,10 129,30 99,34	1 221,89 317 891,97	54 474,09 361,80	27 316,84 32 914,63
1.250	Fennel 0709 90 50	a) b) c)	73,55 437,31 626,94	1 012,07 482,46 2 967,00	143,85 57,93 44,51	547,40 142 412,66	24 403,89 162,08	12 237,69 14 745,45
1.270	Sweet potatoes, whole, fresh (intended for human consumption) 0714 20 10	a) b) c)	43,72 259,97 372,70	601,65 286,81 1 763,82	85,52 34,44 26,46	325,42 84 661,28	14 507,59 96,35	7 275,04 8 765,85
2.10	Chestnuts ( <i>Castanea</i> spp.), fresh ex 0802 40 00	a) b) c)	176,48 1 049,30 1 504,32	2 428,42 1 157,63 7 119,19	345,16 138,99 106,79	1 313,45 341 712,93	58 556,06 388,91	29 363,80 35 381,06
2.30	Pineapples, fresh ex 0804 30 00	a) b) c)	77,95 463,47 664,45	1 072,62 511,32 3 144,51	152,46 61,39 47,17	580,15 150 932,83	25 863,91 171,78	12 969,84 15 627,63

Code	Description Species, varieties, CN code	Amount of unit values per 100 kg						
		a) b) c)	EUR FIM SEK	ATS FRF BEF/LUF	DEM IEP GBP	DKK ITL	GRD NLG	ESP PTE
2.40	Avocados, fresh ex 0804 40 90 ex 0804 40 20 ex 0804 40 95	a) b) c)	123,37 733,51 1 051,58	1 697,57 809,24 4 976,62	241,29 97,16 74,65	918,16 238 872,01	40 933,20 271,87	20 526,56 24 732,88
2.50	Guavas and mangoes, fresh ex 0804 50 00	a) b) c)	99,34 590,64 846,76	1 366,92 651,62 4 007,29	194,29 78,24 60,11	739,32 192 345,38	32 960,38 218,91	16 528,47 19 915,50
2.60	Sweet oranges, fresh:							
2.60.1	— Sanguines and semi-sanguines 0805 10 10	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.60.2	— Navels, navelines, navelates, salustianas, vernas, Valencia lates, Maltese, shamoutis, ovalis, trovita and hamlins 0805 10 30	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.60.3	— Others 0805 10 50	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.70	Mandarins (including tangerines and satsumas), fresh; clementines, wilkings and similar citrus hybrids, fresh:							
2.70.1	— Clementines 0805 20 10	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.70.2	— Monreales and satsumas 0805 20 30	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.70.3	— Mandarines and wilkings 0805 20 50	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.70.4	— Tangerines and others ex 0805 20 70 ex 0805 20 90	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.85	Limes ( <i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> ), fresh ex 0805 30 90	a) b) c)	152,04 904,00 1 296,01	2 092,14 997,33 6 133,36	297,37 119,74 92,00	1 131,57 294 394,36	50 447,54 335,06	25 297,66 30 481,68
2.90	Grapefruit, fresh:							
2.90.1	— white ex 0805 40 90 ex 0805 40 20 ex 0805 40 95	a) b) c)	43,49 258,61 370,75	598,50 285,31 1 754,57	85,07 34,25 26,32	323,71 84 217,48	14 431,54 95,85	7 236,91 8 719,90
2.90.2	— pink ex 0805 40 90 ex 0805 40 20 ex 0805 40 95	a) b) c)	54,35 323,14 463,26	747,84 356,50 2 192,38	106,30 42,80 32,89	404,48 105 232,01	18 032,60 119,77	9 042,71 10 895,76
2.100	Table grapes ex 0806 10 10	a) b) c)	206,20 1 226,00 1 757,64	2 837,35 1 352,57 8 318,03	403,29 162,39 124,77	1 534,63 399 256,16	68 416,70 454,40	34 308,56 41 339,11

Code	Description Species, varieties, CN code	Amount of unit values per 100 kg						
		a) b) c)	EUR FIM SEK	ATS FRF BEF/LUF	DEM IEP GBP	DKK ITL	GRD NLG	ESP PTE
2.110	Water melons 0807 11 00	a) b) c)	37,73 224,32 321,59	519,14 247,47 1 521,92	73,79 29,71 22,83	280,79 73 050,24	12 517,92 83,14	6 277,29 7 563,64
2.120	Melons (other than water melons):							
2.120.1	— Amarillo, cuper, honey dew (including cantalene), onteniente, piel de sapo (including verde liso), rochet, tendral, futuro ex 0807 19 00	a) b) c)	70,22 417,51 598,56	966,25 460,61 2 832,68	137,34 55,30 42,49	522,61 135 965,27	23 299,06 154,74	11 683,66 14 077,89
2.120.2	— other ex 0807 19 00	a) b) c)	132,95 790,47 1 133,24	1 829,39 872,08 5 363,08	260,02 104,70 80,45	989,46 257 421,87	44 111,91 292,98	22 120,57 26 653,54
2.140	Pears							
2.140.1	Pears — nashi ( <i>Pyrus pyrifolia</i> ) ex 0808 20 50	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.140.2	Other ex 0808 20 50	a) b) c)	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
2.150	Apricots 0809 10 00	a) b) c)	159,66 949,30 1 360,94	2 196,97 1 047,30 6 440,68	312,27 125,74 96,61	1 188,27 309 145,26	52 975,25 351,84	26 565,22 32 009,00
2.160	Cherries 0809 20 05 0809 20 95	a) b) c)	486,29 2 891,36 4 145,16	6 691,53 3 189,87 19 616,98	951,11 382,99 294,26	3 619,23 941 593,19	161 351,79 1 071,65	80 912,23 97 492,85
2.170	Peaches 0809 30 90	a) b) c)	199,42 1 185,72 1 699,89	2 744,13 1 308,13 8 044,72	390,04 157,06 120,67	1 484,21 386 137,74	66 168,72 439,47	33 181,28 39 980,82
2.180	Nectarines ex 0809 30 10	a) b) c)	228,82 1 360,49 1 950,45	3 148,61 1 500,95 9 230,51	447,53 180,21 138,46	1 702,98 443 054,01	75 921,91 504,25	38 072,16 45 873,95
2.190	Plums 0809 40 05	a) b) c)	154,78 920,26 1 319,31	2 129,77 1 015,27 6 243,66	302,72 121,90 93,66	1 151,92 299 688,90	51 354,81 341,08	25 752,63 31 029,88
2.200	Strawberries 0810 10 10 0810 10 05 0810 10 80	a) b) c)	395,81 2 353,37 3 373,88	5 446,45 2 596,34 15 966,90	774,14 311,72 239,50	2 945,81 766 393,09	131 329,43 872,25	65 857,08 79 352,58
2.205	Raspberries 0810 20 10	a) b) c)	1 534,04 9 120,99 13 076,17	21 108,87 10 062,65 61 883,06	3 000,32 1 208,16 928,25	11 417,10 2 970 317,76	508 994,84 3 380,58	255 242,96 307 547,63
2.210	Fruit of the species <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> 0810 40 30	a) b) c)	1 413,31 8 403,17 12 047,07	19 447,60 9 270,72 57 012,88	2 764,20 1 113,07 855,20	10 518,58 2 736 554,40	468 937,05 3 114,53	235 155,40 283 343,70
2.220	Kiwi fruit ( <i>Actinidia chinensis</i> Planch.) 0810 50 10 0810 50 20 0810 50 30	a) b) c)	163,06 969,51 1 389,92	2 243,75 1 069,60 6 577,82	318,92 128,42 98,67	1 213,57 315 728,19	54 103,31 359,34	27 130,90 32 690,59



Code	Description Species, varieties, CN code	Amount of unit values per 100 kg						
		a) b) c)	EUR FIM SEK	ATS FRF BEF/LUF	DEM IEP GBP	DKK ITL	GRD NLG	ESP PTE
2.230	Pomegranates ex 0810 90 85	a)	96,11	1 322,46	187,97	715,28	31 888,34	15 990,88
		b)	571,43	630,42	75,69	186 089,29	211,79	19 267,74
		c)	819,22	3 876,95	58,15			
2.240	Khakis (including sharon fruit) ex 0810 90 85	a)	142,21	1 956,82	278,13	1 058,38	47 184,58	23 661,40
		b)	845,53	932,82	112,00	275 352,89	313,38	28 510,12
		c)	1 212,18	5 736,65	86,05			
2.250	Lychees ex 0810 90 30	a)	143,35	1 972,51	280,36	1 066,87	47 562,80	23 851,07
		b)	852,31	940,30	112,90	277 560,04	315,90	28 738,65
		c)	1 221,90	5 782,64	86,74			

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 260/2000**  
**of 2 February 2000**  
**on the issuing of system B export licences for 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 2190/96 of 14 November 1996 on detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 2200/96 as regards export refunds on fruit and vegetables <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1303/1999 <sup>(2)</sup>, and in particular Article 5(6) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 2331/1999 <sup>(3)</sup> fixes the indicative quantities laid down for the issue of export licences other than those requested in the context of food aid.
- (2) In the light of information now available to the Commission, the indicative quantities have been exceeded in the case of tomatoes, oranges, lemons, table grapes and apples,
- (3) As a consequence, for system B licences applied for between 16 November 1999 and 23 January 2000, a rate of refund which is lower than the indicative rate

should be fixed for tomatoes, oranges, lemons, table grapes and apples,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

The percentages for the issuing of system B export licences, as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2190/96, and applied for between 16 November 1999 and 23 January 2000, by which the quantities applied for and the rates of refund applicable must be multiplied, shall be as fixed in the Annex hereto.

The above subparagraph shall not apply to licences applied for in connection with food-aid operations as provided for in Article 10(4) of the Agreement on Agriculture concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 February 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2000.

*For the Commission*

Franz FISCHLER

*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 12.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 155, 22.6.1999, p. 29.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 281, 4.11.1999, p. 3.

## ANNEX

**Percentages for the issuing of licences and rates of refund applicable to system B licences applied for between 16 November 1999 and 23 January 2000**

Product	Destination or group of destinations	Percentage for the issuing of licences	Rate of refund (EUR/tonne net)
Tomatoes	A00	100 %	17,2
Shelled almonds	A00	100 %	50,0
Hazelnuts in shell	A00	100 %	59,0
Shelled hazelnuts	A00	100 %	114,0
Walnuts in shell	A00	100 %	73,0
Oranges	F01, F02, F05	100 %	50,0
Lemons	A00	100 %	30,8
Table grapes	A00	100 %	22,4
Apples	F01	100 %	38,2
	F02	100 %	36,2
	F03, F04	100 %	30,9

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 261/2000**  
**of 2 February 2000**  
**fixing the import duties in the rice sector**

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 <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2072/98 <sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 of 29 July 1996 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 as regards import duties in the rice sector <sup>(3)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2831/98 <sup>(4)</sup>, and in particular Article 4(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 provides that the rates of duty in the Common Customs Tariff are to be charged on import of the products referred to in Article 1 of that Regulation; whereas, however, in the case of the products referred to in paragraph 2 of that Article, the import duty is to be equal to the intervention price valid for such products on importation and increased by a certain percentage according to whether it is husked or milled rice, minus the cif import price provided that duty does not exceed the rate of the Common Customs Tariff duties.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 12(3) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95, the cif import prices are calculated on the basis of the representative prices for the product in question on the world market or on the Community import market for the product.

- (3) Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 lays down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 as regards import duties in the rice sector.
- (4) The import duties are applicable until new duties are fixed and enter into force; whereas they also remain in force in cases where no quotation is available from the source referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 during the two weeks preceding the next periodical fixing.
- (5) In order to allow the import duty system to function normally, the market rates recorded during a reference period should be used for calculating the duties.
- (6) Application of Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 results in import duties being fixed as set out in the Annexes to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

The import duties in the rice sector referred to in Article 11(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 shall be those fixed in Annex I to this Regulation on the basis of the information given in Annex II.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 February 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 February 2000.

*For the Commission*

Franz FISCHLER

*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 329, 30.12.1995, p. 18.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 265, 30.9.1998, p. 4.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 189, 30.7.1996, p. 71.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 351, 29.12.1998, p. 25.

## ANNEX I

## Import duties on rice and broken rice

(EUR/t)

CN code	Duties (€)				
	Third countries (except ACP and Bangladesh) (1)	ACP (1) (2) (3)	Bangladesh (4)	Basmati India and Pakistan (5)	Egypt (6)
1006 10 21	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 10 23	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 10 25	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 10 27	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 10 92	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 10 94	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 10 96	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 10 98	(7)	76,44	111,06		173,10
1006 20 11	169,55	55,00	80,44		127,16
1006 20 13	169,55	55,00	80,44		127,16
1006 20 15	169,55	55,00	80,44		127,16
1006 20 17	197,35	64,73	94,34	0,00	148,02
1006 20 92	169,55	55,00	80,44		127,16
1006 20 94	169,55	55,00	80,44		127,16
1006 20 96	169,55	55,00	80,44		127,16
1006 20 98	197,35	64,73	94,34	0,00	148,02
1006 30 21	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 23	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 25	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 27	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 42	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 44	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 46	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 48	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 61	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 63	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 65	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 67	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 92	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 94	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 96	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 30 98	(7)	146,86	212,59		341,25
1006 40 00	(7)	45,38	(7)		105,00

(1) The duty on imports of rice originating in the ACP States is applicable, under the arrangements laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1706/98 (OJ L 215, 1.8.1998, p. 12) and amended Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/97 (OJ L 351, 23.12.1997, p. 22).

(2) In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1706/98, the duties are not applied to products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and imported directly into the overseas department of Réunion.

(3) The import levy on rice entering the overseas department of Réunion is specified in Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95.

(4) The duty on imports of rice not including broken rice (CN code 1006 40 00), originating in Bangladesh is applicable under the arrangements laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No 3491/90 (OJ L 337, 4.12.1990, p. 1) and amended Commission Regulation (EEC) No 862/91 (OJ L 88, 9.4.1991, p. 7).

(5) No import duty applies to products originating in the OCT pursuant to Article 101(1) of amended Council Decision 91/482/EEC (OJ L 263, 19.9.1991, p. 1).

(6) For husked rice of the Basmati variety originating in India and Pakistan, a reduction of EUR/t 250 applies (Article 4a of amended Regulation (EC) No 1503/96).

(7) Duties fixed in the Common Customs Tariff.

(8) The duty on imports of rice originating in and coming from Egypt is applicable under the arrangements laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 2184/96 (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 1) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 196/97 (OJ L 31, 1.2.1997, p. 53).

## ANNEX II

**Calculation of import duties for rice**

	Paddy	Indica rice		Japonica rice		Broken rice
		Husked	Milled	Husked	Milled	
1. Import duty (EUR/tonne)	( <sup>1</sup> )	197,35	455,00	169,55	455,00	( <sup>1</sup> )
2. Elements of calculation:						
(a) Arag cif price (EUR/tonne)	—	339,68	306,09	391,35	314,71	—
(b) fob price (EUR/tonne)	—	—	—	360,45	283,81	—
(c) Sea freight (EUR/tonne)	—	—	—	30,90	30,90	—
(d) Source	—	USDA	USDA	Operators	Operators	—

(<sup>1</sup>) Duties fixed in the Common Customs Tariff.

## II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

## COUNCIL

## COUNCIL DECISION

of 24 January 2000

appointing a Portuguese member and alternate member of the Committee of the Regions

(2000/90/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 263 thereof,

Having regard to the Council Decision of 26 January 1998 <sup>(1)</sup> appointing the members and alternate members of the Committee of the Regions,

Whereas a seat as a member of the Committee of the Regions has become vacant following the resignation of Mr Joaquim Manuel dos Santos Vairinhos, member, and a seat as an alternate member of the Committee of the Regions has become vacant following the resignation of Mr José Carlos Zorrinho, alternate member, notified to the Council on 22 July and 17 November 1999 respectively;

Having regard to the proposal from the Portuguese Government,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Mr José Carlos Zorrinho is hereby appointed full member of the Committee of the Regions in place of Mr Joaquim Manuel dos Santos Vairinhos, and Mr Manuel Lopes Ribeiro is appointed alternate member of the Committee of the Regions in place of Mr José Carlos Zorrinho for the remainder of their current term of office, which runs until 25 January 2002.

Done at Brussels, 24 January 2000.

*For the Council*

*The President*

J. GAMA

---

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 28, 4.2.1998, p. 19.

## COUNCIL DECISION

of 24 January 2000

**authorising the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of Sweden to apply a measure derogating from Article 17 of the Sixth Council Directive (77/338/EEC) on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes**

(2000/91/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of 17 May 1977 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes — Common system of value added tax: uniform basis of assessment <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 27 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) under Article 27(1) of Directive 77/388/EEC the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission, may authorise any Member State to introduce or extend special measures derogating from the provisions of the Directive to simplify the procedure for charging the tax or prevent certain types of tax evasion or avoidance;
- (2) the Governments of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of Sweden have requested authorisation to apply a measure derogating from Article 17 of Directive 77/388/EEC;
- (3) the other Member States were informed of the requests from the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of Sweden on 3 September 1999;
- (4) these requests relate to the VAT arrangements applying to the operation of the Öresund fixed link between Denmark and Sweden, and in particular to the recovery of VAT paid on tolls for the use of the link. Under the rules of territoriality, part of the VAT on tolls is payable to the Kingdom of Denmark and part to the Kingdom of Sweden;
- (5) in derogation from the provisions of Article 17, as amended by Article 28f, requiring taxable persons to exercise their right to deduct or obtain a refund of VAT in the Member State where it was paid, the Swedish and Danish authorities intend to introduce a special measure enabling taxpayers to recover VAT from a single administration;
- (6) the intended measure fulfils the conditions laid down in Article 27 of Directive 77/388/EEC by virtue of its

limited scope and the fact that it is intended to simplify matters;

- (7) on 17 June 1998 the Commission presented a proposal for a Council Directive <sup>(2)</sup> amending Directive 77/388/EEC as regards the rules governing the right to deduct value added tax, adoption of which would render the special measures unnecessary in the majority of cases, which involve taxable persons established in the Community;
- (8) authorisation should therefore be granted until the new Directive enters into force. However, the authorisation shall expire on 31 December 2002 at the latest if the Directive has not entered into force on that date, thereby enabling the need for the derogation to be reviewed at that time in the light of the Council's discussions on the said proposal for a Directive;
- (9) the derogation does not adversely affect the own resources derived by the European Communities from value added tax,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

By way of derogation from Article 17(2), (3) and (4) of the Directive 77/388/EEC, as amended by Article 28f thereof, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kingdom of Denmark are hereby authorised to apply the following procedure for the recovery of VAT on tolls paid for the use of the Öresund fixed link between the two countries:

- taxable persons established in Denmark may exercise their right to deduct that VAT paid when using the part of the link located on Swedish territory by entering it in the periodic returns to be lodged in Denmark;
- taxable persons established in Sweden may exercise their right to deduct the VAT paid when using the part of the link located on Danish territory by entering it in the periodic returns to be lodged in Sweden;
- taxable persons who are not established in either of the above Member States must apply to the Swedish authorities to obtain refunds of the VAT on tolls, including that paid for using the section of the link located on Danish territory under the procedure laid down in Directive 79/1072/EEC or Directive 86/650/EEC.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 145, 13.6.1977, p. 1. Directive as last amended by Directive 99/59/EC (OJ L 162, 26.6.1999, p. 63).

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 219, 15.7.1998, p. 16.



*Article 2*

This authorisation shall expire on the date of entry into force of Community rules determining the expenditure not eligible for the deduction of value added tax, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 17(6) of Directive 77/388/EEC, and by 31 December 2002 at the latest.

*Article 3*

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Sweden and the Kingdom of Denmark.

Done at Brussels, 24 January 2000.

*For the Council*

*The President*

J. GAMA

---

**COUNCIL DECISION****of 24 January 2000****on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol setting out, for the period from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe**

(2000/92/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe<sup>(1)</sup>, hereinafter referred to as 'Agreement',

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) the Community and São Tomé e Príncipe have held negotiations with a view to determining amendments or additions to be made to the Agreement at the end of the period of application of the current Protocol annexed to the Agreement;
- (2) as a result of those negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 31 May 1999;
- (3) under this Protocol, Community fishermen may fish in waters under sovereignty or jurisdiction of São Tomé e Príncipe from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002;
- (4) in order to avoid interruption of fishing activities by Community vessels, it is essential that the said Protocol be approved as quickly as possible; both Contracting Parties have therefore initialled an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters providing for the provisional application of the initialled Protocol from the day following the date of expiry of the Protocol previously in force; the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters should be approved subject to a definitive decision under Article 37 of the Treaty;
- (5) the method for allocating the fishing opportunities among the Member States should be defined on the basis of the traditional allocation of fishing opportunities under the Fisheries Agreement,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

The Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional of the Protocol setting out, for the period from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe is hereby approved on behalf of the Community.

The text of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters is attached to this Decision.

*Article 2*

The fishing opportunities fixed in the Protocol shall be allocated among the Member States as follows:

- freezer tuna seiners: France 18, Spain 18;
- pole-and-line tuna vessels: France seven;
- Surface longliners: Spain 28, Portugal Five.

If licence applications from these Member States do not cover all the fishing opportunities fixed by the Protocol, the Commission may take into consideration licence applications from any other Member State.

*Article 3*

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the persons empowered to sign the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters on behalf of the Community.

Done at Brussels, 24 January 2000.

*For the Council**The President*

L. CAPOULAS SANTOS

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 54, 25.2.1984, p. 1.

**AGREEMENT IN THE FORM OF AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS**

**concerning the provisional application of the Protocol setting out, for the period from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe on fishing off the Coast of São Tomé e Príncipe**

*A. Letter from the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe*

Sir,

With reference to the Protocol initialled on 31 May 1999 setting out fishing opportunities and financial compensation for the period from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe is prepared to apply the Protocol on a provisional basis with effect from 1 June 1999, pending its entry into force in accordance with Article 7 of the said Protocol, provided the European Community is disposed to do the same.

This is on the understanding that the first instalment of the financial compensation specified in Article 2 of the Protocol is paid by 31 October 1999.

I should be obliged if you would confirm the European Community's agreement to such provisional application.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

*For the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe*

*B. Letter from the European Community*

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

'With reference to the Protocol initialled on 31 May 1999 setting out fishing opportunities and financial compensation for the period from 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe is prepared to apply the Protocol on a provisional basis with effect from 1 June 1999, pending its entry into force in accordance with Article 7 of the said Protocol, provided the European Community is disposed to do the same.

This is on the understanding that the first instalment of the financial compensation specified in Article 2 of the Protocol is paid by 31 October 1999.

I should be obliged if you would confirm the European Community's agreement to such provisional application.'

I have the honour to confirm the European Community's agreement to such provisional application.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

*On behalf of the Council of the European Union*

**DECISION No 3/1999 OF THE EU-CZECH REPUBLIC ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**  
**of 15 December 1999**  
**amending Protocol 4 on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of**  
**administrative cooperation to the EU-Czech Republic Europe Agreement**

(2000/93/EC)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part<sup>(1)</sup>, signed in Brussels on 4 October 1993 and in particular Article 38 of Protocol 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The definition of the term 'originating products' needs to be amended to ensure the proper operation of the extended system of cumulation which permits the use of materials originating in the European Community, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia, Turkey, the European Economic Area, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland;
- (2) It would seem advisable to revise the Articles concerning the amounts in order fully to take into consideration the entry into force of the euro;
- (3) To take account of changes in processing techniques and shortages of certain raw materials, some corrections should be made to the list of working and processing requirements which non-originating materials have to fulfil to qualify for originating status;
- (4) Protocol 4 should therefore be amended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Protocol 4 on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation is hereby amended as follows:

1. in Articles 21 and 26 the word 'Ecu' shall be replaced by 'euro';

2. Article 30 shall be replaced by the following:

*'Article 30*

**Amounts expressed in euro**

1. Amounts in the national currency of the exporting country equivalent to the amounts expressed in euro shall be fixed by the exporting country and communicated to the importing countries through the European Commission.

2. When the amounts exceed the corresponding amounts fixed by the importing country, the latter shall accept them if the products are invoiced in the currency of the exporting country. When the products are invoiced in the currency of EC Member States or another country referred to in Articles 3 and 4, the import country shall recognise the amount notified by the country concerned.

3. The amounts to be used in any given national currency shall be the equivalent in that national currency of the amounts expressed in euro as at the first working day of October 1999.

4. The amounts expressed in euro and their equivalents in the national currencies of Member States and the Czech Republic shall be reviewed by the Association Committee at the request of the Community or the Czech Republic. When carrying out this review, the Association Committee shall ensure that there will be no decrease in the amounts to be used in national currency and shall furthermore consider the desirability of preserving the effects of the limits concerned in real terms. For this purpose, it may decide to modify the amounts expressed in euro.'

3. Annex II shall be amended as follows:

(a) the entry for HS heading 1904 shall be replaced by:

1904	Prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereal or cereal products (for example, corn flakes); cereals (other than maize (corn)) in grain form or in the form of flakes or other worked grains (except flour and meal), pre-cooked, or otherwise prepared, not elsewhere specified or included	Manufacture: — from materials not classified within heading No 1806; — in which all the cereals and flour (except durum wheat and its derivatives and <i>Zea indurata</i> maize) used must be wholly obtained <sup>(1)</sup> ; — in which the value of any materials of Chapter 17 used does not exceed 30 % of the ex-works price of the product
------	--	--

<sup>(1)</sup> The exception concerning the *Zea indurata* maize is applicable until 31.12.2002.'

(b) the entry for HS heading 2207 shall be replaced by:

2207	Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % vol or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength	<p>Manufacture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— from materials not classified within heading Nos 2207 or 2208,</li> <li>— in which all the grapes or any material derived from grapes used must be wholly obtained or if all the other materials used are already originating, arrack may be used up to a limit of 5 % by volume'</li> </ul>	
------	---	---	--

(c) the entry for HS Chapter 57 shall be replaced by:

Chapter 57	Carpets and other textile floor coverings: — Of needleloom felt	<p>Manufacture from <sup>(1)</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— natural fibres</li> <li>or</li> <li>— chemical materials or textile pulp</li> </ul> <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— polypropylene filament of heading No 5402,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— polypropylene fibres of heading Nos 5503 or 5506,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— polypropylene filament tow of heading No 5501, of which the denomination in all cases of a single filament or fibre is less than 9 decitex,</li> </ul> <p>may be used provided their value does not exceed 40 % of the ex-works price of the product</p> <p>Jute fabric may be used as backing</p>	
	— Of other felt	<p>Manufacture from <sup>(1)</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— natural fibres not carded or combed or otherwise processed for spinning,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— chemical materials or textile pulp</li> </ul>	
	— Of other textile materials	<p>Manufacture from <sup>(1)</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— coir or jute yarn,</li> <li>— synthetic or artificial filament yarn,</li> <li>— natural fibres,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— man-made staple fibres not carded or combed or otherwise processed for spinning</li> </ul> <p>Jute fabric may be used as backing</p>	

<sup>(1)</sup> For special conditions relating to products made of a mixture of textile materials, see Introductory Note 5.'

(d) the entry for HS heading 8401 shall be replaced by:

'ex 8401	Nuclear fuel elements	Manufacture in which all the materials used are classified within a heading other than that of the product <sup>(1)</sup>	Manufacture in which the value of all the materials does not exceed 30 % of the ex-works price of the product
----------	-----------------------	---	---

<sup>(1)</sup> This rule shall apply until 31.12.2005.'

(e) the following shall be inserted between the entries for HS headings Nos 9606 and 9612:

'9608	Ball-point pens; felt-tipped and other porous-tipped pens and markers; fountain pens, stylograph pens and other pens; duplicating stylos; propelling or sliding pencils; pen-holders, pencil-holders and similar holders; parts (including caps and clips) of the foregoing articles, other than those of heading No 9609	Manufacture in which all the materials used are classified within a heading other than that of the product. However, nibs or nib-points classified within the same heading may be used'	
-------	---	---	--

#### Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

It shall apply from 1 January 2000.

Done at Brussels, 15 December 1999.

*For the Association Council*

*The President*

T. HALONEN

**DECISION No 4/1999 OF THE EU-SLOVAK REPUBLIC ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
of 23 December 1999**

**amending Protocol 4 on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of  
administrative cooperation to the EU-Slovak Republic Europe Agreement**

(2000/94/EC)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part <sup>(1)</sup>, signed in Brussels on 4 October 1993 and in particular Article 38 of Protocol 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The definition of the term 'originating products' needs to be amended to ensure the proper operation of the extended system of cumulation which permits the use of materials originating in the European Community, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia, Turkey, the European Economic Area, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland;
- (2) It would seem advisable to revise the Articles concerning the amounts in order fully to take into consideration the entry into force of the euro;
- (3) To take account of changes in processing techniques and shortages of certain raw materials, some corrections should be made to the list of working and processing requirements which non-originating materials have to fulfil to qualify for originating status;
- (4) Protocol 4 should therefore be amended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Protocol 4 on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation is hereby amended as follows:

1. in Articles 21 and 26 the word 'Ecu' shall be replaced by 'euro';

2. Article 30 shall be replaced by the following:

*'Article 30*

**Amounts expressed in euro**

1. Amounts in the national currency of the exporting country equivalent to the amounts expressed in euro shall be fixed by the exporting country and communicated to the importing countries through the European Commission.
2. When the amounts exceed the corresponding amounts fixed by the importing country, the latter shall accept them if the products are invoiced in the currency of the exporting country. When the products are invoiced in the currency of EC Member States or another country referred to in Articles 3 and 4, the import country shall recognise the amount notified by the country concerned.
3. The amounts to be used in any given national currency shall be the equivalent in that national currency of the amounts expressed in euro as at the first working day of October 1999.
4. The amounts expressed in euro and their equivalents in the national currencies of Member States and the Slovak Republic shall be reviewed by the Association Committee at the request of the Community or the Slovak Republic. When carrying out this review, the Association Committee shall ensure that there will be no decrease in the amounts to be used in national currency and shall furthermore consider the desirability of preserving the effects of the limits concerned in real terms. For this purpose, it may decide to modify the amounts expressed in euro.'

3. Annex II shall be amended as follows:

- (a) the entry for HS heading 1904 shall be replaced by:

'1904	Prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereal or cereal products (for example, corn flakes); cereals (other than maize (corn)) in grain form or in the form of flakes or other worked grains (except flour and meal), pre-cooked, or otherwise prepared, not elsewhere specified or included	Manufacture: — from materials not classified within heading No 1806; — in which all the cereals and flour (except durum wheat and its derivatives and <i>Zea indurata</i> maize) used must be wholly obtained <sup>(1)</sup> ; — in which the value of any materials of Chapter 17 used does not exceed 30 % of the ex-works price of the product	
-------	--	--	--

<sup>(1)</sup> The exception concerning the *Zea indurata* maize is applicable until 31.12.2002.'

(b) the entry for HS heading 2207 shall be replaced by:

2207	Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % vol or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength	<p>Manufacture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— from materials not classified within heading Nos 2207 or 2208,</li> <li>— in which all the grapes or any material derived from grapes used must be wholly obtained or if all the other materials used are already originating, arrack may be used up to a limit of 5 % by volume'</li> </ul>	
------	---	---	--

(c) the entry for HS Chapter 57 shall be replaced by:

'Chapter 57	Carpets and other textile floor coverings: — Of needleloom felt	<p>Manufacture from <sup>(1)</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— natural fibres</li> <li>or</li> <li>— chemical materials or textile pulp</li> </ul> <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— polypropylene filament of heading No 5402,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— polypropylene fibres of heading Nos 5503 or 5506,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— polypropylene filament tow of heading No 5501, of which the denomination in all cases of a single filament or fibre is less than 9 decitex,</li> </ul> <p>may be used provided their value does not exceed 40 % of the ex-works price of the product</p> <p>Jute fabric may be used as backing</p>	
	— Of other felt	<p>Manufacture from <sup>(1)</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— natural fibres not carded or combed or otherwise processed for spinning,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— chemical materials or textile pulp</li> </ul>	
	— Of other textile materials	<p>Manufacture from <sup>(1)</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— coir or jute yarn,</li> <li>— synthetic or artificial filament yarn,</li> <li>— natural fibres,</li> <li>or</li> <li>— man-made staple fibres not carded or combed or otherwise processed for spinning</li> </ul> <p>Jute fabric may be used as backing</p>	

<sup>(1)</sup> For special conditions relating to products made of a mixture of textile materials, see Introductory Note 5.'



(d) the entry for HS heading 8401 shall be replaced by:

'ex 8401	Nuclear fuel elements	Manufacture in which all the materials used are classified within a heading other than that of the product <sup>(1)</sup>	Manufacture in which the value of all the materials does not exceed 30 % of the ex-works price of the product
----------	-----------------------	---	---

<sup>(1)</sup> This rule shall apply until 31.12.2005.'

(e) the following shall be inserted between the entries for HS headings Nos 9606 and 9612:

'9608	Ball-point pens; felt-tipped and other porous-tipped pens and markers; fountain pens, stylograph pens and other pens; duplicating stylos; propelling or sliding pencils; pen-holders, pencil-holders and similar holders; parts (including caps and clips) of the foregoing articles, other than those of heading No 9609	Manufacture in which all the materials used are classified within a heading other than that of the product. However, nibs or nib-points classified within the same heading may be used'	
-------	---	---	--

#### Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

It shall apply from 1 January 2000.

Done at Brussels, 23 December 1999.

*For the Association Council*

*The President*

T. HALONEN

# COMMISSION

## COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 December 1999

### on financial aid from the Community for the operation of certain Community reference laboratories in the veterinary public health field (residues) and amending Decisions 1999/587/EC and 1999/760/EC

(notified under document number C(1999) 4678)

(Only the Spanish, Danish, German, English, French, Italian, Dutch and Swedish texts are authentic)

(2000/95/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 90/424/EEC of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999 of 17 May 1999 <sup>(2)</sup>, and in particular Article 28(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Community financial aid should be granted to the Community reference laboratories designated by the Community to assist them in carrying out the functions and duties laid down in Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products <sup>(3)</sup>;
- (2) Community assistance must be conditional on the accomplishment of those functions and duties by the laboratory concerned;
- (3) For budgetary reasons, Community assistance should be granted for a period of 11 months;
- (4) For supervisory purposes, Articles 8 and 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999 on the financing of the common agricultural policy should apply;
- (5) For certain Community Reference Laboratories in veterinary field Community assistance has been granted by Decisions 1999/587/EC <sup>(4)</sup> and 1999/760/EC <sup>(5)</sup>; however, these Decisions do not permit payment of this

assistance in advance; therefore these Decisions must be amended;

- (6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### Article 1

1. The Community grants financial assistance to the Netherlands for the functions and duties referred to in Annex V, Chapter 2, to Directive 96/23/EC to be carried out by the Rijksinstituut voor de Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne, Bilthoven, the Netherlands, for the detection of residues of certain substances.

2. The Community's financial assistance shall amount to a maximum of EUR 375 000 for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000.

#### Article 2

1. The Community grants financial assistance to France for the functions and duties referred to in Annex V, Chapter 2, to Directive 96/23/EC to be carried out by the Laboratoire des médicaments vétérinaires, Fougères, France, for the detection of residues of certain substances.

2. The Community's financial assistance shall amount to a maximum of EUR 375 000 for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 19.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 103.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 10.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 223, 24.8.1999, p. 28.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ L 300, 23.11.1999, p. 35.

*Article 3*

1. The Community grants financial assistance to Germany for the functions and duties referred to in Annex V, Chapter 2, to Directive 96/23/EC to be carried out by the Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin (formerly the Institut für Veterinärmedizin), Berlin, Germany, for the detection of residues of certain substances.

2. The Community's financial assistance shall amount to a maximum of EUR 375 000 for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000.

*Article 4*

1. The Community grants financial assistance to Italy for the functions and duties referred to in Annex V, Chapter 2, to Directive 96/23/EC to be carried out by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy, for the detection of residues of certain substances.

2. The Community's financial assistance shall amount to a maximum of EUR 375 000 for the period from 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000.

*Article 5*

The Community's financial assistance shall be paid as follows:

- (a) 70 % by way of an advance at the request of the recipient Member State.
- (b) the balance following presentation of supporting documents and a technical report by the recipient Member State. Those documents must be present at the latest six months after the end of the period for which financial assistance has been granted.

*Article 6*

Articles 8 and 9 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

*Article 7*

1. Article 8 of Decision 1999/587/EC is replaced by the following:

'The Community's financial assistance shall be paid as follows:

- (a) 70 % by way of an advance at the request of the recipient Member State,
- (b) the balance following presentation of supporting documents and a technical report by the recipient Member State. Those documents must be present at the latest six months after the end of the period for which financial assistance has been granted.'

2. Article 6 of Decision 1999/760/EC is replaced by the following:

'The Community's financial assistance shall be paid as follows:

- (a) 70 % by way of an advance at the request of the recipient Member State,
- (b) the balance following presentation of supporting documents and a technical report by the recipient Member State. Those documents must be present at the latest six months after the end of the period for which financial assistance has been granted.'

*Article 8*

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 20 December 1999.

*For the Commission*

David BYRNE

*Member of the Commission*

## COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 December 1999

**on the communicable diseases to be progressively covered by the Community network under Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council***(notified under document number C(1999) 4015)*

(2000/96/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 1998 setting up a network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the Community <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 3(a) to (e) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) According to Decision No 2119/98/EC, a network at Community level is to be set up to promote cooperation and coordination between the Member States, with the assistance of the Commission, with a view to improving the prevention and control, in the Community, of the categories of communicable diseases specified in the Annex to that Decision. That network is to be used for the epidemiological surveillance of those diseases and for the establishment of an early warning and response system.
- (2) As regards epidemiological surveillance, the network is to be established by bringing into permanent communication with one another through all appropriate technical means the Commission and those structures and/or authorities which, at the level of each Member State and under the responsibility of that Member State, are competent at national level and are charged with collecting information relating to the epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases.
- (3) The diseases and health issues selected for coverage by epidemiological surveillance at Community level should reflect the present needs in the Community, in particular the added value of surveillance at Community level.
- (4) The list of diseases or health issues selected for surveillance should be altered in response to changes in disease prevalence and in response to the emergence of new communicable diseases threatening public health.
- (5) The Commission should provide the Community network with the appropriate information tools, while ensuring consistency and complementarity with the relevant Community programmes and initiatives.

(6) This Decision should apply without prejudice to Council Directive 92/117/EEC of 17 December 1992 concerning measures for protection against specified zoonoses and specified zoonotic agents in animals and products of animal origin in order to prevent outbreaks of food-borne infections and intoxications <sup>(2)</sup>, as last amended by Directive 1999/72/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(3)</sup>.

(7) This Decision should facilitate the integration of the Community network set up under Decision No 2119/98/EC with other rapid alert networks set up at national or Community level for diseases and special health issues to be covered by the early warning and response system. For the purpose of its implementation, the Community network should therefore operate by using the Health Surveillance System for Communicable Diseases within the European Public Health Information Network (Euphin-HSSCD), consisting of three components:

- (a) an early warning and response system for reports of specified threats to the public transmitted by the competent public health authorities of each Member State responsible for determining measures which may be required to protect public health;
- (b) exchange of information between accredited structures and authorities of the Member States relevant to public health;
- (c) specific networks on diseases selected for epidemiological surveillance between accredited structures and authorities of the Member States.

(8) The development of new useful technologies should be monitored on a regular basis and taken into consideration for the improvement of electronic information exchange.

(9) For logistic reasons, not all communicable diseases or special health issues selected for epidemiological surveillance can immediately be covered by dedicated surveillance network arrangements. Nevertheless, in order that the Community network can begin to work and gain experience, the competent authorities in the Member States should disseminate in the Community network relevant information in their possession.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 268, 3.10.1998, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 38.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 210, 10.8.1999, p. 12.

(10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee set up by Article 7 of Decision No 2119/98/EC,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The communicable diseases and special health issues to be covered by epidemiological surveillance in the Community network pursuant to Decision No 2119/98/EC are listed in Annex I to this Decision. The surveillance shall be performed in a cost-effective way having regard to the nature of the disease, the existing networks and the Community added value.

*Article 2*

The criteria for the selection of the diseases and special health issues to be covered by epidemiological surveillance within the Community network are listed in Annex II.

*Article 3*

For the purpose of the technical implementation of this Decision, the Community network shall initially operate by using the Health Surveillance System for Communicable Diseases within the European Public Health Information Network (Euphin-HSSCD).

*Article 4*

The Community network shall be put in place by modifying and integrating as appropriate existing Community-supported surveillance networks and by building up new networks for diseases not yet covered by surveillance networks. Where a low number of cases of a disease does not allow for a dedicated surveillance network to be put in place for that disease, surveillance information within the Community network shall be shared on the basis of case reports.

*Article 5*

Case definitions, the nature and type of data for collection and transmission as well as the appropriate epidemiological and microbiological surveillance methods shall be determined for each specific surveillance network integrated into or created for the Community network. Case definitions and surveillance methods shall also be determined for diseases on which information is shared by case reports only.

*Article 6*

Member States shall disseminate in the Community network relevant information in their possession detected in their national surveillance system on communicable diseases or special health issues selected for epidemiological surveillance not yet covered by dedicated Community surveillance network arrangements.

*Article 7*

Relevant information on communicable diseases not listed in Annex I shall be disseminated through the Community network, in accordance with Article 4 of Decision No 2119/98/EC, whenever this is found necessary in order to protect public health in the Community.

*Article 8*

Where specific surveillance networks are put in place for zoonoses for which surveillance of human cases is required under Directive 92/117/EEC, that surveillance shall be performed in accordance with Decision No 2119/98/EC, and such data required for the implementation of Directive 92/117/EC shall be made fully available for that purpose. To this end, case definitions and surveillance methods for human disease shall be drawn up, as far as possible, in such a way that the data collected serve also Directive 92/117/EC.

*Article 9*

The competent authorities in the Member States shall communicate to the Commission other diseases and special health issues for which epidemiological surveillance at Community level shall be progressively developed on the basis of the criteria listed in Annex II.

*Article 10*

This Decision shall take effect on 1 January 2000.

*Article 11*

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 22 December 1999.

*For the Commission*

David BYRNE

*Member of the Commission*

## ANNEX I

1. **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND SPECIAL HEALTH ISSUES TO BE PROGRESSIVELY COVERED BY THE COMMUNITY NETWORK**
- 1.1. **For the diseases/health issues listed below, surveillance within the Community network will be performed by standardised collection and analysis of data in a way that will be determined for each disease/health issue when specific Community surveillance networks are put in place.**
2. **DISEASES**
- 2.1. **Diseases preventable by vaccination**
  - Diphtheria
  - Infections with haemophilus influenza group B
  - Influenza
  - Measles
  - Mumps
  - Pertussis
  - Poliomyelitis
  - Rubella
- 2.2. **Sexually transmitted diseases**
  - Chlamydia infections
  - Gonococcal infections
  - HIV-infection
  - Syphilis
- 2.3. **Viral hepatitis**
  - Hepatitis A
  - Hepatitis B
  - Hepatitis C
- 2.4. **Food- and water-borne diseases and diseases of environmental origin**
  - Botulism
  - Campylobacteriosis
  - Cryptosporidiosis
  - Giardiasis
  - Infection with Enterohaemorrhagic E.coli
  - Leptospirosis
  - Listeriosis
  - Salmonellosis
  - Shigellosis
  - Toxoplasmosis
  - Trichinosis
  - Yersinosis
- 2.5. **Other diseases**
  - 2.5.1. *Diseases transmitted by non-conventional agents*
    - Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies variant (CJD)
  - 2.5.2. *Air-borne diseases*
    - Legionellosis
    - Meningococcal disease
    - Pneumococcal infections
    - Tuberculosis

2.5.3. *Zoonoses (other than in 2.4)*

Brucellosis  
Echinococcosis  
Rabies

2.5.4. *Serious imported diseases*

Cholera  
Malaria  
Plague  
Viral haemorrhagic fevers

3. **SPRECIAL HEALTH ISSUES**

3.1. **Nosocomial infections**

3.2. **Antimicrobial resistance**

---

ANNEX II

**Criteria for selection of communicable diseases of special areas to be covered by epidemiological surveillance within the network.**

1. Diseases that cause, or have the potential to cause, significant morbidity and/or mortality across the Community, especially where the prevention of the diseases requires a global approach to coordination.
  2. Diseases where the exchange of information may provide early warning of threats to public health.
  3. Rare and serious diseases which would not be recognised at national level and where the pooling of data would allow hypothesis generation from a wider knowledge base.
  4. Diseases for which effective preventive measures are available with a protective health gain.
  5. Diseases for which a comparison by Member States would contribute to the evaluation of national and Community programmes.
-

## COMMISSION DECISION

of 18 January 2000

**on import licences in respect of beef and veal products originating in Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Namibia***(notified under document number C(2000) 117)*

(2000/97/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1706/98 of 20 July 1998 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP States) and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 715/90 <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 30 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1918/98 of 9 September 1998 laying down detailed rules for the application in the beef and veal sector of Council Regulation (EC) No 1706/98 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and repealing Regulation (EC) No 589/96 <sup>(2)</sup>, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

- (1) Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1918/98 provides for the possibility of issuing import licences for beef and veal products; whereas, however, imports must take place within the limits of the quantities specified for each of these exporting non-member countries;
- (2) Whereas the applications for import licences submitted between 1 and 10 January 2000, expressed in terms of boned meat, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1918/98, do not exceed, in respect of products originating in Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Namibia, the quantities available from those States; whereas it is therefore possible to issue import licences in respect of the quantities applied for;
- (3) Whereas the quantities in respect of which licences may be applied for from 1 February 2000 should be fixed within the scope of the total quantity of 52 100 tonnes;
- (4) Whereas this Decision is without prejudice to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals and swine, fresh meat or meat products from third countries <sup>(3)</sup>, as last amended by Directive 97/79/EC <sup>(4)</sup>,

*Article 1*

The following Member States shall issue on 21 January 2000 import licences for beef and veal products, expressed as boned meat, originating in certain African, Caribbean and Pacific States, in respect of the following quantities and countries of origin:

*Germany:*

- 370 tonnes originating in Botswana,
- 245 tonnes originating in Namibia.

*United Kingdom:*

- 280 tonnes originating in Botswana,
- 236 tonnes originating in Namibia,
- 55 tonnes originating in Swaziland,
- 780 tonnes originating in Zimbabwe.

*Article 2*

Licence applications may be submitted, pursuant to Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1918/98, during the first 10 days of February 2000 for the following quantities of boned beef and veal:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| — Botswana:   | 18 266 tonnes, |
| — Kenya:      | 142 tonnes,    |
| — Madagascar: | 7 579 tonnes,  |
| — Swaziland:  | 3 308 tonnes,  |
| — Zimbabwe:   | 8 320 tonnes,  |
| — Namibia:    | 12 519 tonnes. |

*Article 3*

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 18 January 2000.

*For the Commission*

Franz FISCHLER

*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 215, 1.8.1998, p. 12.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 250, 10.9.1998, p. 16.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 24, 30.1.1998, p. 31.