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(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1748/2003 of 2 October 2003

establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 of 21 December 1994 on detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables (¹), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1947/2002 (²), 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 October 2003.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

For the Commission
J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ
Agriculture Director-General

ANNEX
to the Commission Regulation of 2 October 2003 establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

(EUR/100 kg)

CN code	Third country code (1)	Standard import value
0702 00 00	052	102,2
	060	90,9
	096	68,9
	999	87,3
0707 00 05	052	106,4
	999	106,4
0709 90 70	052	104,5
	999	104,5
0805 50 10	052	82,2
	388	70,2
	524	68,1
	528	51,9
	999	68,1
0806 10 10	052	101,8
	064	97,9
	999	99,8
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	388	76,7
	400	72,2
	508	35,3
	512	66,6
	720	72,4
	800	166,1
	804	94,9
	999	83,5
0808 20 50	052	111,0
	064	58,3
	720	65,2
	999	78,2

⁽¹) Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2020/2001 (OJ L 273, 16.10.2001, p. 6). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1749/2003

of 2 October 2003

reducing, for the 2003/04 marketing year, the amount of aid to producers of certain citrus fruits following an overrun of the processing threshold in certain Member States

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2202/96 of 28 October 1996 introducing a Community aid scheme for producers of certain citrus fruits (1), as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1933/2001 (2), and in particular Article 6 thereof,

Whereas:

- Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2202/96 establishes a Community processing threshold for certain citrus fruits, distributed among the Member States in accordance with Annex II thereto. Article 5(2) provides that when this threshold is overrun the amounts of aid indicated in Annex I thereto are to be reduced in each Member State in which the threshold has been overrun. The overrun of the processing threshold is assessed on the basis of the average quantities processed under the aid scheme during the three marketing years preceding the marketing year for which the aid is to be fixed, or during an equivalent period.
- The Member States have communicated the quantities of oranges processed under the aid scheme in accordance with Article 23(1)(c) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1092/2001 of 30 May 2001 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 2202/ 96 introducing a Community aid scheme for producers of certain citrus fruits (3), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 350/2002 (4). Based on this information, it has been established that the Community processing threshold has been overrun by 101 966 tonnes. Within that overrun, Italy has overrun its threshold. The amounts of aid for oranges indicated in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2202/96 for the 2003/04 marketing year must therefore be reduced by 14,93 % in Italy.

- The Member States have communicated the quantities of grapefruit and pomelos processed under the aid scheme in accordance with Article 23(1)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1092/2001. Based on this information, it has been established that the Community processing threshold has been overrun by 2 286 tonnes. Within that overrun, Greece, Spain, France and Italy have overrun their thresholds. The amounts of aid for grapefruit and pomelos indicated in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2202/96 for the 2003/04 marketing year must therefore be reduced by 19,83 % in Greece, 54,14 % in Spain, 26,74 % in France and 33,29 % in Italy.
- The measures provided for in this Regulation are in (4) accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Where Italy is concerned, and for the 2003/04 marketing year, the amounts of aid to be granted under Regulation (EC) No 2202/96 for oranges delivered for processing shall be as indicated in Annex I hereto.

Article 2

Where Greece, Spain, France and Italy are concerned, and for the 2003/04 marketing year, the amounts of aid to be granted under Regulation (EC) No 2202/96 for grapefruit and pomelos delivered for processing shall be as indicated in Annex II hereto.

Article 3

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

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

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

⁽¹) OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 49. (²) OJ L 262, 2.10.2001, p. 6.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 150, 6.6.2001, p. 6.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 55, 26.2.2002, p. 20.

ANNEX I

(EUR/100 kg)

	Multiannual contracts		Individual producers		
Italy	9,59	8,34	7,50		

ANNEX II

(EUR/100 kg)

	Multiannual contracts	Contracts covering a single marketing year	Individual producers
Greece	8,39	7,30	6,57
Spain	4,80	4,17	3,76
France	7,67	6,67	6,00
Italy	6,98	6,07	5,46

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1750/2003

of 2 October 2003

altering the export refunds on white sugar and raw sugar exported in the natural state

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/2001 of 19 June 2001 on the common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector (1), as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 680/2002 (2), and in particular the third subparagraph of Article 27(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- The refunds on white sugar and raw sugar exported in the natural state were fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1684/2003 (3), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1730/2003 (4).
- It follows from applying the detailed rules contained in (2) Regulation (EC) No 1684/2003 to the information known to the Commission that the export refunds at

present in force should be altered to the amounts set out in the Annex hereto,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The export refunds on the products listed in Article 1(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/2001, undenatured and exported in the natural state, as fixed in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1684/2003 are hereby altered to the amounts shown in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 October 2003.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

⁽¹) OJ L 178, 30.6.2001, p. 1. (²) OJ L 104, 20.4.2002, p. 26. (³) OJ L 240, 26.9.2003, p. 5.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 249, 1.10.2003, p. 16.

${\it ANNEX}$ REFUNDS ON WHITE SUGAR AND RAW SUGAR EXPORTED WITHOUT FURTHER PROCESSING

Product code	Destination	Unit of measurement	Amount of refund
1701 11 90 9100	S00	EUR/100 kg	44,96 (¹)
1701 11 90 9910	S00	EUR/100 kg	45,01 (¹)
1701 12 90 9100	S00	EUR/100 kg	44,96 (1)
1701 12 90 9910	S00	EUR/100 kg	45,01 (¹)
1701 91 00 9000	S00	EUR/1 % of sucrose × 100 kg product net	0,4888
1701 99 10 9100	S00	EUR/100 kg	48,88
1701 99 10 9910	S00	EUR/100 kg	48,93
1701 99 10 9950	S00	EUR/100 kg	48,93
1701 99 90 9100	S00	EUR/1 % of sucrose × 100 kg of net product	0,4888

NB: The product codes and the 'A' series destination codes are set out in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3846/87 (OJ L 366, 24.12.1987, p. 1).

The numeric destination codes are set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1779/2002 (OJ L 269, 5.10.2002, p. 6).

The other destinations are:

S00: all destinations (third countries, other territories, victualling and destinations treated as exports from the Community) with the exception of Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo, as defined in UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, save for sugar incorporated in the products referred to in Article 1(2)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/96 (OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 29).

(1) This amount is applicable to raw sugar with a yield of 92 %. Where the yield for exported raw sugar differs from 92 %, the refund amount applicable shall be calculated in accordance with Article 28(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/2001.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1751/2003

of 2 October 2003

fixing the maximum export refund for white sugar to certain third countries for the eighth partial invitation to tender issued within the framework of the standing invitation to tender provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1290/2003

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/2001 of 19 June 2001 on the common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector (1), as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 680/2002 (2), and in particular Article 27(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1290/2003 of 18 July (1)2003 on a standing invitation to tender to determine levies and/or refunds on exports of white sugar (3), for the 2003/2004 marketing year, requires partial invitations to tender to be issued for the export of this sugar to certain third countries.
- Pursuant to Article 9(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/ (2) 2003 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.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For the eighth partial invitation to tender for white sugar issued pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1290/2003 the maximum amount of the export refund to certain third countries is fixed at 52,000 EUR/100 kg.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 October 2003.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 178, 30.6.2001, p. 1.

⁽²) OJ L 104, 20.4.2002, p. 26. (³) OJ L 181, 19.7.2003, p. 7.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1752/2003

of 2 October 2003

fixing the export refunds on rice and broken rice and suspending the issue of export licences

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 of 22 December 1995 on the common organisation of the market in rice (1), as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 411/2002 (2), and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 13(3) and (15) thereof,

Whereas:

- Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 provides that the difference between quotations or prices on the world market for the products listed in Article 1 of that Regulation and prices for those products within the Community may be covered by an export refund.
- Article 13(4) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95, provides (2) that when refunds are being fixed account must be taken of the existing situation and the future trend with regard to prices and availabilities of rice and broken rice on the Community market on the one hand and prices for rice and broken rice on the world market on the other. The same Article provides that it is also important to ensure equilibrium and the natural development of prices and trade on the rice market and, furthermore, to take into account the economic aspect of the proposed exports and the need to avoid disturbances of the Community market with limits resulting from agreements concluded in accordance with Article 300 of the Treaty.
- Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1361/76 (3) lays down (3) the maximum percentage of broken rice allowed in rice for which an export refund is fixed and specifies the percentage by which that refund is to be reduced where the proportion of broken rice in the rice exported exceeds that maximum.
- Export possibilities exist for a quantity of 8 800 tonnes of rice to certain destinations. The procedure laid down in Article 8(3) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1342/ 2003 (4) should be used. Account should be taken of this when the refunds are fixed.
- Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 defines the specific criteria to be taken into account when the export refund on rice and broken rice is being calculated.

- The world market situation or the specific requirements (6) of certain markets may make it necessary to vary the refund for certain products according to destination.
- (7) A separate refund should be fixed for packaged long grain rice to accommodate current demand for the product on certain markets.
- The refund must be fixed at least once a month; whereas (8) it may be altered in the intervening period.
- It follows from applying these rules and criteria to the present situation on the market in rice and in particular to quotations or prices for rice and broken rice within the Community and on the world market, that the refund should be fixed as set out in the Annex hereto.
- (10)For the purposes of administering the volume restrictions resulting from Community commitments in the context of the WTO, the issue of export licences with advance fixing of the refund should be restricted.
- The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The export refunds on the products listed in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 with the exception of those listed in paragraph 1(c) of that Article, exported in the natural state, shall be as set out in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

With the exception of the quantity of 8 800 tonnes provided for in the Annex, the issue of export licences with advance fixing of the refund is suspended.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 October 2003.

⁽¹) OJ L 329, 30.12.1995, p. 18. (²) OJ L 62, 5.3.2002, p. 27. (³) OJ L 154, 15.6.1976, p. 11.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 189, 29.7.2003, p. 12.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 2 October 2003 fixing the export refunds on rice and broken rice and suspending the issue of export licences

Product code	Destination	Unit of measure- ment	Amount of refunds (1)	-	Product code	Destination	Unit of measure- ment	Amount of refunds (1)
1006 20 11 9000	R01	EUR/t	93		1006 30 65 9900	R01	EUR/t	116
1006 20 11 9000	R01	EUR/t	93		1000 30 03 7700	064 and 066	EUR/t	142
1006 20 15 9000	R01	EUR/t	93			A97	EUR/t	122
1006 20 17 9000	_	EUR/t			1006 30 67 9100	021 and 023	EUR/t	122
1006 20 92 9000	R01	EUR/t	93		1000 30 07 9100	064 and 066		142
1006 20 94 9000	R01	EUR/t	93		100/20/7000		EUR/t	
1006 20 96 9000	R01	EUR/t	93		1006 30 67 9900	064 and 066	EUR/t	142
1006 20 98 9000	_	EUR/t	_		1006 30 92 9100	R01	EUR/t	116
1006 30 21 9000	R01	EUR/t	93			R02	EUR/t	122
1006 30 23 9000	R01	EUR/t	93			R03	EUR/t	127
1006 30 25 9000	R01	EUR/t	93			064 and 066	EUR/t	142
1006 30 27 9000	_	EUR/t	_			A97	EUR/t	122
1006 30 42 9000	R01	EUR/t	93			021 and 023	EUR/t	122
1006 30 44 9000	R01	EUR/t	93		1006 30 92 9900	R01	EUR/t	116
1006 30 46 9000	R01	EUR/t	93			A97	EUR/t	122
1006 30 48 9000		EUR/t	_			064 and 066	EUR/t	142
1006 30 61 9100	R01	EUR/t	116		1006 30 94 9100	R01	EUR/t	116
	R02 R03	EUR/t	122 127		1000 30 71 7100	R02	EUR/t	122
	064 and 066	EUR/t EUR/t	142			R03	EUR/t	127
	A97	EUR/t	122			064 and 066	EUR/t	142
	021 and 023	EUR/t	122					
1006 30 61 9900	R01	EUR/t	116			A97	EUR/t	122
1000 30 01 7700	A97	EUR/t	122			021 and 023	EUR/t	122
	064 and 066	EUR/t	142		1006 30 94 9900	R01	EUR/t	116
1006 30 63 9100	R01	EUR/t	116			A97	EUR/t	122
1000 30 03 7100	RO2	EUR/t	122			064 and 066	EUR/t	142
	R03	EUR/t	127		1006 30 96 9100	R01	EUR/t	116
	064 and 066	EUR/t	142			R02	EUR/t	122
	A97	EUR/t	122			R03	EUR/t	127
	021 and 023	EUR/t	122			064 and 066	EUR/t	142
1006 30 63 9900	R01	EUR/t	116			A97	EUR/t	122
	064 and 066	EUR/t	142			021 and 023	EUR/t	122
	A97	EUR/t	122		1006 30 96 9900	R01	EUR/t	116
1006 30 65 9100	R01	EUR/t	116		1300 70 70 7700	A97	EUR/t	122
	R02	EUR/t	122			064 and 066	EUR/t	142
	R03	EUR/t	127		1006 30 98 9100	021 and 023	EUR/t	122
	064 and 066	EUR/t	142		1006 30 98 9100	021 4114 023	EUR/t	—
	A97	EUR/t	122				,	
	021 and 023	EUR/t	122		1006 40 00 9000		EUR/t	_

⁽¹⁾ The procedure laid down in Article 8(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1342/2003 applies to licences applied for under that Regulation for quantities according to the destination:

destination R01: 2 000 t, all destinations R02 and R03: 2 000 t, destinations 021 and 023: 500 t, destinations 064 and 066: 4 000 t, destination A97: 300 t.

NB: The product codes and the 'A' series destination codes are set out in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3846/87 (OJ L 366, 24.12.1987, p. 1) as amended.

The numeric destination codes are set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1779/2002 (OJ L 269, 5.10.2002, p. 6).

The other destinations are defined as follows:

- R01 Switzerland, Liechtenstein, communes of Livigno and Campione d'Italia.
- RO2 Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Ex-Spanish Sahara, Cyprus, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, West Bank/Gaza Strip, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Norway, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Russia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan.
- R03 Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Bermuda, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong SAR, Singapore, A40 except the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Turks and Caicos Islands, A11 except Suriname, Guyana, Madagascar.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1753/2003

of 2 October 2003

fixing the maximum reduction in the duty on maize imported in connection with the invitation to tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 1620/2003

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in cereals (1), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1104/ 2003 (2), and in particular Article 12(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- An invitation to tender for the maximum reduction in the duty on maize imported into Spain from third countries was opened pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1620/2003 (3).
- Pursuant to Article 5 of Commission Regulation (EC) No (2) 1839/95 (4), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2235/2000 (5), the Commission, acting under the procedure laid down in Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, may decide to fix maximum reduction in the import duty. In fixing this maximum the criteria provided for in Articles 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1839/95 must be taken into account. A contract is awarded to any tenderer whose tender is equal to or less than the maximum reduction in the duty.

- The application of the abovementioned criteria to the current market situation for the cereal in question results in the maximum reduction in the import duty being fixed at the amount specified in Article 1.
- The measures provided for in this Regulation are in (4) accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For tenders notified from 26 September to 2 October 2003, pursuant to the invitation to tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 1620/2003, the maximum reduction in the duty on maize imported shall be 4,72 EUR/t and be valid for a total maximum quantity of 250 000 t.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 October 2003.

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

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

⁽¹) OJ L 181, 1.7.1992, p. 21. (²) OJ L 158, 27.6.2003, p. 1. (²) OJ L 231, 17.9.2003, p. 6. (²) OJ L 177, 28.7.1995, p. 4.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 256, 10.10.2000, p. 13.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 63(3)(a) thereof,

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

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

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (3),

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions (4),

Whereas:

- With a view to the progressive establishment of an area of freedom, security and justice, the Treaty establishing the European Community provides both for the adoption of measures aimed at ensuring the free movement of persons, in conjunction with flanking measures relating to external border controls, asylum and immigration, and for the adoption of measures relating to asylum, immigration and safeguarding the rights of third country nationals.
- Measures concerning family reunification should be (2)adopted in conformity with the obligation to protect the family and respect family life enshrined in many instruments of international law. This Directive respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular in Article 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- The European Council, at its special meeting in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999, acknowledged the need for harmonisation of national legislation on the conditions for admission and residence of third country nationals. In this context, it has in particular stated that the European Union should ensure fair treatment of third country nationals residing lawfully on the territory of the Member States and that a more vigorous integration policy should aim at granting them rights and obligations comparable to those of citizens of the European Union. The European Council accordingly asked the Council rapidly to adopt the legal instruments on the basis of Commission proposals. The need for achieving

the objectives defined at Tampere have been reaffirmed by the Laeken European Council on 14 and 15 December 2001.

- Family reunification is a necessary way of making family life possible. It helps to create sociocultural stability facilitating the integration of third country nationals in the Member State, which also serves to promote economic and social cohesion, a fundamental Community objective stated in the Treaty.
- Member States should give effect to the provisions of this Directive without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics, language, religion or beliefs, political or other opinions, membership of a national minority, fortune, birth, disabilities, age or sexual orientation.
- To protect the family and establish or preserve family life, the material conditions for exercising the right to family reunification should be determined on the basis of common criteria.
- (7) Member States should be able to apply this Directive also when the family enters together.
- Special attention should be paid to the situation of refugees on account of the reasons which obliged them to flee their country and prevent them from leading a normal family life there. More favourable conditions should therefore be laid down for the exercise of their right to family reunification.
- Family reunification should apply in any case to members of the nuclear family, that is to say the spouse and the minor children.
- It is for the Member States to decide whether they wish to authorise family reunification for relatives in the direct ascending line, adult unmarried children, unmarried or registered partners as well as, in the event of a polygamous marriage, minor children of a further spouse and the sponsor. Where a Member State authorises family reunification of these persons, this is without prejudice of the possibility, for Member States which do not recognise the existence of family ties in the cases covered by this provision, of not granting to the said persons the treatment of family members with regard to the right to reside in another Member State, as defined by the relevant EC legislation.

⁽¹) OJ C 116 E, 26.4.2000, p. 66, and OJ C 62 E, 27.2.2001, p. 99. (²) OJ C 135, 7.5.2001, p. 174. (²) OJ C 204, 18.7.2000, p. 40.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 73, 26.3.2003, p. 16.

- (11) The right to family reunification should be exercised in proper compliance with the values and principles recognised by the Member States, in particular with respect to the rights of women and of children; such compliance justifies the possible taking of restrictive measures against applications for family reunification of polygamous households.
- (12) The possibility of limiting the right to family reunification of children over the age of 12, whose primary residence is not with the sponsor, is intended to reflect the children's capacity for integration at early ages and shall ensure that they acquire the necessary education and language skills in school.
- (13) A set of rules governing the procedure for examination of applications for family reunification and for entry and residence of family members should be laid down. Those procedures should be effective and manageable, taking account of the normal workload of the Member States' administrations, as well as transparent and fair, in order to offer appropriate legal certainty to those concerned.
- (14) Family reunification may be refused on duly justified grounds. In particular, the person who wishes to be granted family reunification should not constitute a threat to public policy or public security. The notion of public policy may cover a conviction for committing a serious crime. In this context it has to be noted that the notion of public policy and public security covers also cases in which a third country national belongs to an association which supports terrorism, supports such an association or has extremist aspirations.
- (15) The integration of family members should be promoted. For that purpose, they should be granted a status independent of that of the sponsor, in particular in cases of breakup of marriages and partnerships, and access to education, employment and vocational training on the same terms as the person with whom they are reunited, under the relevant conditions.
- (16) Since the objectives of the proposed action, namely the establishment of a right to family reunification for third country nationals to be exercised in accordance with common rules, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the scale and effects of the action, be better achieved by the Community, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

- (17) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community and without prejudice to Article 4 of the said Protocol these Member States are not participating in the adoption of this Directive and are not bound by or subject to its application.
- (18) In accordance with Article 1 and 2 of the Protocol on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark does not take part in the adoption of this Directive, and is not bound by it or subject to its application,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

CHAPTER I

General provisions

Article 1

The purpose of this Directive is to determine the conditions for the exercise of the right to family reunification by third country nationals residing lawfully in the territory of the Member States.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Directive:

- (a) 'third country national' means any person who is not a citizen of the Union within the meaning of Article 17(1) of the Treaty;
- (b) 'refugee' means any third country national or stateless person enjoying refugee status within the meaning of the Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the Protocol signed in New York on 31 January 1967;
- (c) 'sponsor' means a third country national residing lawfully in a Member State and applying or whose family members apply for family reunification to be joined with him/her;
- (d) 'family reunification' means the entry into and residence in a Member State by family members of a third country national residing lawfully in that Member State in order to preserve the family unit, whether the family relationship arose before or after the resident's entry;
- (e) 'residence permit' means any authorisation issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally in its territory, in accordance with the provisions of Article 1(2)(a) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals (¹);

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 157, 15.6.2002, p. 1.

(f) 'unaccompanied minor' means third country nationals or stateless persons below the age of eighteen, who arrive on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible by law or custom, and for as long as they are not effectively taken into the care of such a person, or minors who are left unaccompanied after they entered the territory of the Member States.

Article 3

- 1. This Directive shall apply where the sponsor is holding a residence permit issued by a Member State for a period of validity of one year or more who has reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence, if the members of his or her family are third country nationals of whatever status.
- 2. This Directive shall not apply where the sponsor is:
- (a) applying for recognition of refugee status whose application has not yet given rise to a final decision;
- (b) authorised to reside in a Member State on the basis of temporary protection or applying for authorisation to reside on that basis and awaiting a decision on his status;
- (c) authorised to reside in a Member State on the basis of a subsidiary form of protection in accordance with international obligations, national legislation or the practice of the Member States or applying for authorisation to reside on that basis and awaiting a decision on his status.
- 3. This Directive shall not apply to members of the family of a Union citizen.
- 4. This Directive is without prejudice to more favourable provisions of:
- (a) bilateral and multilateral agreements between the Community or the Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and third countries, on the other;
- (b) the European Social Charter of 18 October 1961, the amended European Social Charter of 3 May 1987 and the European Convention on the legal status of migrant workers of 24 November 1977.
- 5. This Directive shall not affect the possibility for the Member States to adopt or maintain more favourable provisions.

CHAPTER II

Family members

Article 4

- 1. The Member States shall authorise the entry and residence, pursuant to this Directive and subject to compliance with the conditions laid down in Chapter IV, as well as in Article 16, of the following family members:
- (a) the sponsor's spouse;

- (b) the minor children of the sponsor and of his/her spouse, including children adopted in accordance with a decision taken by the competent authority in the Member State concerned or a decision which is automatically enforceable due to international obligations of that Member State or must be recognised in accordance with international obligations:
- (c) the minor children including adopted children of the sponsor where the sponsor has custody and the children are dependent on him or her. Member States may authorise the reunification of children of whom custody is shared, provided the other party sharing custody has given his or her agreement;
- (d) the minor children including adopted children of the spouse where the spouse has custody and the children are dependent on him or her. Member States may authorise the reunification of children of whom custody is shared, provided the other party sharing custody has given his or her agreement.

The minor children referred to in this Article must be below the age of majority set by the law of the Member State concerned and must not be married.

By way of derogation, where a child is aged over 12 years and arrives independently from the rest of his/her family, the Member State may, before authorising entry and residence under this Directive, verify whether he or she meets a condition for integration provided for by its existing legislation on the date of implementation of this Directive.

- 2. The Member States may, by law or regulation, authorise the entry and residence, pursuant to this Directive and subject to compliance with the conditions laid down in Chapter IV, of the following family members:
- (a) first-degree relatives in the direct ascending line of the sponsor or his or her spouse, where they are dependent on them and do not enjoy proper family support in the country of origin;
- (b) the adult unmarried children of the sponsor or his or her spouse, where they are objectively unable to provide for their own needs on account of their state of health.
- 3. The Member States may, by law or regulation, authorise the entry and residence, pursuant to this Directive and subject to compliance with the conditions laid down in Chapter IV, of the unmarried partner, being a third country national, with whom the sponsor is in a duly attested stable long-term relationship, or of a third country national who is bound to the sponsor by a registered partnership in accordance with Article 5(2), and of the unmarried minor children, including adopted children, as well as the adult unmarried children who are objectively unable to provide for their own needs on account of their state of health, of such persons.

Member States may decide that registered partners are to be treated equally as spouses with respect to family reunification.

4. In the event of a polygamous marriage, where the sponsor already has a spouse living with him in the territory of a Member State, the Member State concerned shall not authorise the family reunification of a further spouse.

By way of derogation from paragraph 1(c), Member States may limit the family reunification of minor children of a further spouse and the sponsor.

- 5. In order to ensure better integration and to prevent forced marriages Member States may require the sponsor and his/her spouse to be of a minimum age, and at maximum 21 years, before the spouse is able to join him/her.
- 6. By way of derogation, Member States may request that the applications concerning family reunification of minor children have to be submitted before the age of 15, as provided for by its existing legislation on the date of the implementation of this Directive. If the application is submitted after the age of 15, the Member States which decide to apply this derogation shall authorise the entry and residence of such children on grounds other than family reunification.

CHAPTER III

Submission and examination of the application

Article 5

- 1. Member States shall determine whether, in order to exercise the right to family reunification, an application for entry and residence shall be submitted to the competent authorities of the Member State concerned either by the sponsor or by the family member or members.
- 2. The application shall be accompanied by documentary evidence of the family relationship and of compliance with the conditions laid down in Articles 4 and 6 and, where applicable, Articles 7 and 8, as well as certified copies of family member(s)' travel documents.

If appropriate, in order to obtain evidence that a family relationship exists, Member States may carry out interviews with the sponsor and his/her family members and conduct other investigations that are found to be necessary.

When examining an application concerning the unmarried partner of the sponsor, Member States shall consider, as evidence of the family relationship, factors such as a common child, previous cohabitation, registration of the partnership and any other reliable means of proof.

3. The application shall be submitted and examined when the family members are residing outside the territory of the Member State in which the sponsor resides.

By way of derogation, a Member State may, in appropriate circumstances, accept an application submitted when the family members are already in its territory.

4. The competent authorities of the Member State shall give the person, who has submitted the application, written notification of the decision as soon as possible and in any event no later than nine months from the date on which the application was lodged.

In exceptional circumstances linked to the complexity of the examination of the application, the time limit referred to in the first subparagraph may be extended.

Reasons shall be given for the decision rejecting the application. Any consequences of no decision being taken by the end of the period provided for in the first subparagraph shall be determined by the national legislation of the relevant Member State

5. When examining an application, the Member States shall have due regard to the best interests of minor children.

CHAPTER IV

Requirements for the exercise of the right to family reunification

Article 6

- 1. The Member States may reject an application for entry and residence of family members on grounds of public policy, public security or public health.
- 2. Member States may withdraw or refuse to renew a family member's residence permit on grounds of public policy or public security or public health.

When taking the relevant decision, the Member State shall consider, besides Article 17, the severity or type of offence against public policy or public security committed by the family member, or the dangers that are emanating from such person.

3. Renewal of the residence permit may not be withheld and removal from the territory may not be ordered by the competent authority of the Member State concerned on the sole ground of illness or disability suffered after the issue of the residence permit.

Article 7

- 1. When the application for family reunification is submitted, the Member State concerned may require the person who has submitted the application to provide evidence that the sponsor has:
- (a) accommodation regarded as normal for a comparable family in the same region and which meets the general health and safety standards in force in the Member State concerned;
- (b) sickness insurance in respect of all risks normally covered for its own nationals in the Member State concerned for himself/herself and the members of his/her family;

- (c) stable and regular resources which are sufficient to maintain himself/herself and the members of his/her family, without recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State concerned. Member States shall evaluate these resources by reference to their nature and regularity and may take into account the level of minimum national wages and pensions as well as the number of family members.
- 2. Member States may require third country nationals to comply with integration measures, in accordance with national law

With regard to the refugees and/or family members of refugees referred to in Article 12 the integration measures referred to in the first subparagraph may only be applied once the persons concerned have been granted family reunification.

Article 8

Member States may require the sponsor to have stayed lawfully in their territory for a period not exceeding two years, before having his/her family members join him/her.

By way of derogation, where the legislation of a Member State relating to family reunification in force on the date of adoption of this Directive takes into account its reception capacity, the Member State may provide for a waiting period of no more than three years between submission of the application for family reunification and the issue of a residence permit to the family members.

CHAPTER V

Family reunification of refugees

Article 9

- 1. This Chapter shall apply to family reunification of refugees recognised by the Member States.
- 2. Member States may confine the application of this Chapter to refugees whose family relationships predate their entry.
- 3. This Chapter is without prejudice to any rules granting refugee status to family members.

Article 10

- 1. Article 4 shall apply to the definition of family members except that the third subparagraph of paragraph 1 thereof shall not apply to the children of refugees.
- 2. The Member States may authorise family reunification of other family members not referred to in Article 4, if they are dependent on the refugee.

- 3. If the refugee is an unaccompanied minor, the Member States:
- (a) shall authorise the entry and residence for the purposes of family reunification of his/her first-degree relatives in the direct ascending line without applying the conditions laid down in Article 4(2)(a);
- (b) may authorise the entry and residence for the purposes of family reunification of his/her legal guardian or any other member of the family, where the refugee has no relatives in the direct ascending line or such relatives cannot be traced.

Article 11

- 1. Article 5 shall apply to the submission and examination of the application, subject to paragraph 2 of this Article.
- 2. Where a refugee cannot provide official documentary evidence of the family relationship, the Member States shall take into account other evidence, to be assessed in accordance with national law, of the existence of such relationship. A decision rejecting an application may not be based solely on the fact that documentary evidence is lacking.

Article 12

1. By way of derogation from Article 7, the Member States shall not require the refugee and/or family member(s) to provide, in respect of applications concerning those family members referred to in Article 4(1), the evidence that the refugee fulfils the requirements set out in Article 7.

Without prejudice to international obligations, where family reunification is possible in a third country with which the sponsor and/or family member has special links, Member States may require provision of the evidence referred to in the first subparagraph.

Member States may require the refugee to meet the conditions referred to in Article 7(1) if the application for family reunification is not submitted within a period of three months after the granting of the refugee status.

2. By way of derogation from Article 8, the Member States shall not require the refugee to have resided in their territory for a certain period of time, before having his/her family members join him/her.

CHAPTER VI

Entry and residence of family members

Article 13

1. As soon as the application for family reunification has been accepted, the Member State concerned shall authorise the entry of the family member or members. In that regard, the Member State concerned shall grant such persons every facility for obtaining the requisite visas.

- 2. The Member State concerned shall grant the family members a first residence permit of at least one year's duration. This residence permit shall be renewable.
- 3. The duration of the residence permits granted to the family member(s) shall in principle not go beyond the date of expiry of the residence permit held by the sponsor.

Article 14

- 1. The sponsor's family members shall be entitled, in the same way as the sponsor, to:
- (a) access to education;
- (b) access to employment and self-employed activity;
- (c) access to vocational guidance, initial and further training and retraining.
- 2. Member States may decide according to national law the conditions under which family members shall exercise an employed or self-employed activity. These conditions shall set a time limit which shall in no case exceed 12 months, during which Member States may examine the situation of their labour market before authorising family members to exercise an employed or self-employed activity.
- 3. Member States may restrict access to employment or selfemployed activity by first-degree relatives in the direct ascending line or adult unmarried children to whom Article 4(2) applies.

Article 15

1. Not later than after five years of residence, and provided that the family member has not been granted a residence permit for reasons other than family reunification, the spouse or unmarried partner and a child who has reached majority shall be entitled, upon application, if required, to an autonomous residence permit, independent of that of the sponsor.

Member States may limit the granting of the residence permit referred to in the first subparagraph to the spouse or unmarried partner in cases of breakdown of the family relationship.

- 2. The Member States may issue an autonomous residence permit to adult children and to relatives in the direct ascending line to whom Article 4(2) applies.
- 3. In the event of widowhood, divorce, separation, or death of first-degree relatives in the direct ascending or descending line, an autonomous residence permit may be issued, upon application, if required, to persons who have entered by virtue of family reunification. Member States shall lay down provisions ensuring the granting of an autonomous residence permit in the event of particularly difficult circumstances.

4. The conditions relating to the granting and duration of the autonomous residence permit are established by national

CHAPTER VII

Penalties and redress

Article 16

- 1. Member States may reject an application for entry and residence for the purpose of family reunification, or, if appropriate, withdraw or refuse to renew a family member's residence permit, in the following circumstances:
- (a) where the conditions laid down by this Directive are not or are no longer satisfied.

When renewing the residence permit, where the sponsor has not sufficient resources without recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State, as referred to in Article 7(1)(c), the Member State shall take into account the contributions of the family members to the household income:

- (b) where the sponsor and his/her family member(s) do not or no longer live in a real marital or family relationship;
- (c) where it is found that the sponsor or the unmarried partner is married or is in a stable long-term relationship with another person.
- 2. Member States may also reject an application for entry and residence for the purpose of family reunification, or withdraw or refuse to renew the family member's residence permits, where it is shown that:
- (a) false or misleading information, false or falsified documents were used, fraud was otherwise committed or other unlawful means were used;
- (b) the marriage, partnership or adoption was contracted for the sole purpose of enabling the person concerned to enter or reside in a Member State.

When making an assessment with respect to this point, Member States may have regard in particular to the fact that the marriage, partnership or adoption was contracted after the sponsor had been issued his/her residence permit.

- 3. The Member States may withdraw or refuse to renew the residence permit of a family member where the sponsor's residence comes to an end and the family member does not yet enjoy an autonomous right of residence under Article 15.
- 4. Member States may conduct specific checks and inspections where there is reason to suspect that there is fraud or a marriage, partnership or adoption of convenience as defined by paragraph 2. Specific checks may also be undertaken on the occasion of the renewal of family members' residence permit.

Article 17

Member States shall take due account of the nature and solidity of the person's family relationships and the duration of his residence in the Member State and of the existence of family, cultural and social ties with his/her country of origin where they reject an application, withdraw or refuse to renew a residence permit or decide to order the removal of the sponsor or members of his family.

Article 18

The Member States shall ensure that the sponsor and/or the members of his/her family have the right to mount a legal challenge where an application for family reunification is rejected or a residence permit is either not renewed or is withdrawn or removal is ordered.

The procedure and the competence according to which the right referred to in the first subparagraph is exercised shall be established by the Member States concerned.

CHAPTER VIII

Final provisions

Article 19

Periodically, and for the first time not later than 3 October 2007, the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Directive in the Member States and shall propose such amendments as may appear necessary. These proposals for amendments shall be made by way of priority in relation to Articles 3, 4, 7, 8 and 13.

Article 20

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by not later than 3 October 2005. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by the Member States.

Article 21

This Directive shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 22

This Directive is addressed to the Member States in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Done at Brussels, 22 September 2003.

For the Council
The President
F. FRATTINI

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 2 October 2003

amending Decision 92/452/EEC establishing lists of embryo collection teams and embryo production teams approved in third countries for export of bovine embryos to the Community as regards the list for Canada

(notified under document number C(2003) 3427)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2003/688/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 89/556/EEC of 25 September 1989 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and importation from third countries of embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species (1), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 806/2003 (2), and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Whereas:

Commission Decision 92/452/EEC (3), as last amended (1) by Decision 2003/391/EC (4), provides that Member States are only to import embryos from third countries where they have been collected, processed and stored by embryo collection teams and embryo production teams listed in that Decision. Canada has requested that an amendment be made to that list as regards entries for that country.

- Canada has provided guarantees regarding compliance (2)with the appropriate rules set out in Directive 89/556/ EEC and the team concerned has been officially approved for exports to the Community by the veterinary services of that country.
- Decision 92/452/EEC should therefore be amended (3) accordingly.
- (4)The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In the Annex to Decision 92/452/EEC, the row for the Canadian team No E 733 is replaced by the following:

'CA		E 733	E 733 (IVF)	L'Alliance Boviteq Inc 19320 Grand Rang St-François Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec J2T 5H1	Dr Daniel Bousquet Dr Jean Durocher'
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Article 2

This Decision shall apply from 6 October 2003.

OJ L 302, 19.10.1989, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 1. (3) OJ L 250, 29.8.1992, p. 40.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 135, 3.6.2003, p. 25.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

For the Commission
David BYRNE
Member of the Commission

COMMISSION DECISION

of 2 October 2003

on the list of establishments in Estonia approved for the purpose of importing fresh meat into the Community

(notified under document number C(2003) 3429)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2003/689/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (1), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 807/2003 (2), and in particular Articles 4(1) and 18(1)(a) and (b) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Establishments in third countries may only be authorised to export fresh meat to the Community if they satisfy the general and special conditions laid down in Directive 72/462/EEC.
- Following a Community mission, it appears that the (2)animal health situation in Estonia compares favourably with that in the Member States, particularly as regards disease transmission through meat, and that the operation of controls over the production of fresh meat is satisfactory.
- (3) For the purpose of Article 4(3) of Directive 72/462/EEC, Estonia has forwarded details of the establishment that should be authorised to export fresh meat to the Community.
- The establishment put forward by Estonia meets all the (4) requirements laid down in Directive 72/462/EEC in order to be designated as a slaughterhouse and approved cutting plant from which imports into the EU may be permitted in accordance with Article 18 of the Directive.

- A Community inspection has shown that the hygiene (5) standards of that establishment are satisfactory and that it may therefore be included on the first list of establishments, to be drawn up in accordance with Directive 72/ 462/EEC, from which imports of fresh meat may be authorised.
- The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The establishment in Estonia as listed in the Annex is hereby approved for the purposes of exporting fresh meat to the Community pursuant to the conditions laid down in Directive 72/462/EEC, including points (a) and (b) of Article 18(1) thereof.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from 6 October 2003.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 2 October 2003.

For the Commission David BYRNE Member of the Commission

⁽²⁾ OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 36.

ANNEX

COUNTRY: ESTONIA

Approval Establishment	Park Laure	Town/Davion	Category (*)							SR
	Town/Region -	SL	CP	CS	В	S/G	P	SP		
13	Rakvere Lihakombinaat AS	Roodevälja küla, Sõmeru vald Lääne - Virumaa	X	X	Х			X		

(*) SL: Slaughterhouse

S/G: Sheepmeat/Goatmeat

CP: Cutting premises

P: Pigmeat SP: Meat from solipeds

CS: Cold store

SR: Special remarks

B: Bovine meat

COMMISSION DECISION

of 2 October 2003

on the request by Ireland to accept Council Directive 2001/55/EC on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof

(notified under document number C(2003) 3428)

(Only the English text is authentic)

(2003/690/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, in particular to Article 11a thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Council adopted on 20 July 2001 Directive 2001/55/EC on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (hereinafter referred to as Directive 2001/55/EC) (¹).
- (2) Pursuant to Article 1 of the Protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland, Ireland did not participate in the adoption of Directive 2001/55/EC.
- (3) In accordance with Article 4 of the said Protocol, Ireland notified the Commission by letter of 11 April 2003, received by the Commission on 6 May 2003, its intention to accept the Directive 2001/55/EC.
- (4) In accordance with Article 11a of the Treaty the Commission adopted a favourable opinion on the request by Ireland on 6 August 2003,

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1

Directive 2001/55/EC shall apply to Ireland.

Article 2

Notwithstanding Article 32(1) of Directive 2001/55/EC, Ireland shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive by 31 December 2003 at the latest. Ireland shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

Article 3

Directive 2001/55/EC shall come into force for Ireland from the date of the notification of this Decision.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels. 2 October 2003.

For the Commission
António VITORINO
Member of the Commission