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I

(Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is obligatory)

REGULATIONS

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 693/2008

of 8 July 2008

amending Regulation (EC) No 974/98 as regards the introduction of the euro in Slovakia

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

which have not yet adopted the euro as the single currency.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 123(5) thereof,

(4) Council Regulation (EC) No 1647/2006 ⁽⁵⁾ amended Regulation (EC) No 974/98 to provide for the substitution of the euro for the currency of Slovenia.

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

(5) Council Regulation (EC) No 835/2007 ⁽⁶⁾ amended Regulation (EC) No 974/98 to provide for the substitution of the euro for the currency of Cyprus.

Having regard to the opinion of the European Central Bank ⁽¹⁾,

(6) Regulation (EC) No 836/2007 amended Regulation (EC) No 974/98 to provide for the substitution of the euro for the currency of Malta.

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 974/98 of 3 May 1998 on the introduction of the euro ⁽²⁾ provides for the substitution of the euro for the currencies of the Member States which fulfilled the necessary conditions for the adoption of the single currency at the time when the Community entered the third stage of economic and monetary union.

(7) According to Article 4 of the 2003 Act of Accession, Slovakia is a Member State with a derogation as defined in Article 122 of the Treaty.

(2) Council Regulation (EC) No 2596/2000 ⁽³⁾ amended Regulation (EC) No 974/98 to provide for the substitution of the euro for the currency of Greece.

(8) Pursuant to Decision 2008/608/EC of 8 July 2008 in accordance with Article 122(2) of the Treaty on the adoption by Slovakia of the single currency on 1 January 2009 ⁽⁷⁾, Slovakia fulfils the necessary conditions for the adoption of the single currency and the derogation in favour of Slovakia is to be abrogated with effect from 1 January 2009.

(3) Council Regulation (EC) No 2169/2005 ⁽⁴⁾ amended Regulation (EC) No 974/98 in order to prepare for subsequent introductions of the euro in Member States

(9) The introduction of the euro in Slovakia requires the extension to Slovakia of the existing provisions on the introduction of the euro set out in Regulation (EC) No 974/98.

⁽¹⁾ Opinion of 3 July 2008 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 139, 11.5.1998, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 836/2007 (OJ L 186, 18.7.2007, p. 3).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 300, 29.11.2000, p. 2.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 346, 29.12.2005, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 309, 9.11.2006, p. 2.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 186, 18.7.2007, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ See page 24 of this Official Journal.

(10) Slovakia's changeover plan specifies that euro banknotes and coins should become legal tender in that Member State on the day of the introduction of the euro as its currency. Consequently, the euro adoption date and the cash changeover date should be 1 January 2009. No 'phasing-out' period should apply.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Annex to Regulation (EC) No 974/98 shall be amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 2009.

(11) Regulation (EC) No 974/98 should therefore be amended accordingly,

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2008.

For the Council
The President
C. LAGARDE

ANNEX

In the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 974/98, the following line is inserted between the entries for Slovenia and Finland:

Member State	Euro adoption date	Cash changeover date	Member State with a 'phasing-out' period
'Slovakia	1 January 2009	1 January 2009	No'

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 694/2008**of 8 July 2008****amending Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 as regards the conversion rate to the euro for Slovakia**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 123(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Central Bank ⁽¹⁾,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 of 31 December 1998 on the conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States adopting the euro ⁽²⁾ determines the conversion rates as from 1 January 1999.

(2) According to Article 4 of the 2003 Act of Accession, Slovakia is a Member State with a derogation within the meaning of Article 122 of the Treaty.

(3) Pursuant to Council Decision 2008/608/EC of 8 July 2008 in accordance with Article 122(2) of the Treaty on the adoption by Slovakia of the single currency on 1 January 2009 ⁽³⁾, Slovakia fulfils the necessary conditions for the adoption of the single currency and

the derogation in favour of Slovakia shall be abrogated with effect from 1 January 2009.

(4) The introduction of the euro in Slovakia requires the adoption of the conversion rate between the euro and the Slovak koruna. This conversion rate shall be set at 30,1260 korunas per 1 euro, which corresponds to the current central rate of the koruna in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II).

(5) Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 2866/98, the following shall be inserted between the conversion rates applicable to the Slovenian tolar and the Finnish mark:

'= 30,1260 Slovak korunas'.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 2009.

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

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2008.

*For the Council**The President*

C. LAGARDE

⁽¹⁾ Opinion delivered on 3 July 2008 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 359, 31.12.1998, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1135/2007 (OJ L 256, 2.10.2007, p. 2).

⁽³⁾ See page 24 of this Official Journal.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 695/2008
of 23 July 2008
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 Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1580/2007 of 21 December 2007 laying down implementing rules for Council Regulations (EC) No 2200/96, (EC) No 2201/96 and (EC) No 1182/2007 in the fruit and vegetable sector ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 138(1) thereof,

Whereas:

Regulation (EC) No 1580/2007 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 Annex XV, Part A thereto,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The standard import values referred to in Article 138 of Regulation (EC) No 1580/2007 are fixed in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 24 July 2008.

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

Done at Brussels, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Jean-Luc DEMARTY

*Director-General for Agriculture and
Rural Development*

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 299, 16.11.2007, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 510/2008 (OJ L 149, 7.6.2008, p. 61).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 350, 31.12.2007, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 590/2008 (OJ L 163, 24.6.2008, p. 24).

ANNEX

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	MK	27,8
	TR	77,7
	ME	25,6
	XS	23,3
	ZZ	38,6
0707 00 05	MK	27,4
	TR	106,2
	ZZ	66,8
0709 90 70	TR	92,6
	ZZ	92,6
0805 50 10	AR	100,7
	US	78,4
	UY	64,9
	ZA	100,8
	ZZ	86,2
0806 10 10	CL	94,4
	EG	108,9
	IL	143,0
	TR	137,7
	ZZ	121,0
0808 10 80	AR	105,0
	BR	102,8
	CL	100,8
	CN	85,6
	NZ	111,6
	US	101,6
	UY	80,0
	ZA	88,1
	ZZ	96,9
0808 20 50	AR	81,6
	CL	86,1
	NZ	110,0
	ZA	97,3
	ZZ	93,8
0809 10 00	TR	156,4
	US	186,2
	ZZ	171,3
0809 20 95	TR	406,2
	US	437,5
	ZZ	421,9
0809 30	TR	167,0
	ZZ	167,0
0809 40 05	IL	117,4
	XS	82,7
	ZZ	100,1

⁽¹⁾ Nomenclature of countries laid down by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1833/2006 (OJ L 354, 14.12.2006, p. 19). Code 'ZZ' stands for 'of other origin'.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 696/2008**of 23 July 2008****laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 as regards the extension to non-members of certain rules adopted by producers' organisations in the fisheries sector****(Codified version)**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

stability in the conditions under which fishery products are marketed.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 of 17 December 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 7(10) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1886/2000 of 6 September 2000 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 as regards the extension to non-members of certain rules adopted by producers' organisations in the fisheries sector ⁽²⁾ has been substantially amended ⁽³⁾. In the interests of clarity and rationality the said Regulation should be codified.

(2) It is necessary to define criteria for assessing the degree of representativeness of the producers' organisations in the catch sector whose rules it is proposed to extend to non-members. Those criteria should include both the proportion of the total quantities marketed of the species concerned accounted for by the members of the organisation and the proportion of fishermen in the area in question who are members of the organisation. It is also necessary to define specific criteria in the aquaculture sector as regards representativeness.

(3) In order to harmonise the implementation of these measures, the production and marketing rules which may be extended to non-members in the catch and aquaculture sectors should be defined. For the same purpose, the stage to which such extended rules apply should be specified.

(4) A minimum period of application of the rules in question should be fixed in order to maintain a certain

(5) Member States which decide to make obligatory the rules adopted by a producers' organisation are obliged to submit them to the Commission for examination. It is necessary, therefore, to specify what information is to be notified to the Commission.

(6) It is necessary for Member States and the Commission to publish information on the extension of rules which could affect the sector.

(7) Any amendments to the rules extended to non-members should be subject to the same requirements as to notification to the Commission and publication as the original extension.

(8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fishery Products,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The production and marketing activities of a producers' organisation in the catch sector shall be considered to be sufficiently representative in the area within which it is proposed to extend the rules if:

(a) marketing by the producers' organisation or by its members of the species to which the rules would apply accounts for more than 65 % overall of the quantities marketed; and

(b) the number of fishermen aboard vessels operated by members of the producers' organisation is more than 50 % of the total number of fishermen established in the area to whom the rules which may be extended would apply.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, p. 22. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1759/2006 (OJ L 335, 1.12.2006, p. 3).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 227, 7.9.2000, p. 11. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1812/2001 (OJ L 246, 15.9.2001, p. 5).

⁽³⁾ See Annex I.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1(a), account shall be taken of quantities marketed during the previous marketing year.

3. For the purpose of calculating the percentage referred to in paragraph 1(b), fishermen aboard vessels whose overall length is less than or equal to 10 metres shall be taken into account in proportion to the relation between the quantities marketed by such fishermen and the total quantities marketed in the area in question.

4. The production and marketing activities of a producers' organisation in the aquaculture sector as defined in Article 3(d) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006⁽¹⁾ shall be considered to be sufficiently representative in the area within which it is proposed to extend the rules if production by the producers' organisation or by its members of the species to which the rules would apply accounts for more than 40 % of the quantities produced.

5. For the purpose of applying paragraph 4, account shall be taken of quantities produced during the previous marketing year.

Article 2

1. The production and marketing rules referred to in Article 7(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 shall include the following elements:

- (a) the quality, size or weight and presentation of products offered for sale;
- (b) sampling, receptacles used for sales purposes, packaging and labelling and the use of ice;
- (c) the conditions of the first placing on the market, which may include rules on the rational disposal of production in order to stabilise the market.

2. In the aquaculture sector, the rules referred to in paragraph 1 may contain measures concerning the placement of juveniles or intervention at other stages of the life cycle of the aquaculture species to which the rules would apply, and, in particular, provisions on the harvesting or storage, including the freezing, of any surplus production.

Article 3

The minimum period of application of the rules to be extended to non-members shall be 90 days.

Article 4

Where a Member State decides to extend certain rules adopted by a producers' organisation to non-members, the notification to the Commission referred to in Article 7(3) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 shall include at least:

- (a) the name and address of the producers' organisation concerned;
- (b) all the information required to show that the organisation is representative, particularly by reference to the criteria set out in Article 1 of this Regulation;
- (c) the rules in question;
- (d) the justification for the rules, supported by appropriate data;
- (e) the geographical area in which it is intended to make the rules obligatory;
- (f) the duration of the rules;
- (g) the date of entry into force.

Article 5

Member States shall publish the rules they have decided to make obligatory at least eight days in advance of their entry into force.

Article 6

Any modification to the rules extended to non-members shall be subject to Articles 4 and 5.

Article 7

The Commission shall publish in the *Official Journal of the European Union* its decisions declaring an extension of rules null and void pursuant to the second indent of the second subparagraph of Article 7(3) and to Article 7(5) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000.

Article 8

Regulation (EC) No 1886/2000 is repealed.

References to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex II.

Article 9

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 223, 15.8.2006, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission
The President
 José Manuel BARROSO

ANNEX I

Repealed Regulation with its amendment

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1886/2000	(OJ L 227, 7.9.2000, p. 11)
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1812/2001	(OJ L 246, 15.9.2001, p. 5)

ANNEX II

Correlation Table

Regulation (EC) No 1886/2000	This Regulation
Article 1	Article 1
Article 2	Article 2
Article 3	Article 3
Article 4	Article 4
Article 5	Article 5
Article 6	Article 6
Article 7	Article 7
Article 8	—
—	Article 8
Article 9	Article 9
—	Annex I
—	Annex II

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 697/2008**of 23 July 2008****amending Council Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 as regards catch limits for the fisheries on sandeel in ICES zone IIIa and in EC waters of ICES zones IIa and IV**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 of 16 January 2008 fixing for 2008 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 5(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Catch limits for sandeel in ICES zone IIIa and in EC waters of ICES zones IIa and IV are provisionally laid down in Annex IA to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008.
- (2) Pursuant to point 6 of Annex IID to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008, the Commission is to revise the total allowable catches (TAC) and quotas for 2008 for sandeel in those zones based on advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).
- (3) The TAC should be established according to the function laid down in point 6 of Annex IID to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008. According to that function the TAC would amount to 470 000 tonnes.
- (4) In accordance with point 7 of Annex IID to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008, the TAC should not exceed 400 000 tonnes.
- (5) Point 5 of Annex IID to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 provides that for the unallocated quota for this TAC, the fishing effort allowed in the exploratory fishing relating to sandeel abundance in 2008 shall be distributed to Member States whose vessels have a record of fishing activity in the years 2002 to 2006 in that area, which corresponds to a share of fishing effort of 96 % for Sweden and a share of 4 % for Germany. The allocation key for the unallocated quota for this TAC should be established on the basis of that distribution of fishing effort.
- (6) Sandeel is a North Sea stock which is shared with Norway but which is currently not jointly managed. The measures provided for in this Regulation should be in accordance with consultations with Norway pursuant to the provisions of the Agreed Record of conclusions of fisheries consultations between the European Commission and Norway of 26 November 2007. In consequence, the Community share of that part of the TAC that can be caught in ICES zones IIa and IV should be fixed at 90 % of 400 000 tonnes.
- (7) Annex IA to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annex IA to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Joe BORG

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 19, 23.1.2008, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 641/2008 (OJ L 178, 5.7.2008, p. 17).

ANNEX

Annex IA to Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 is amended as follows:

The entry concerning the species sandeel in ICES zone IIIa and in EC waters of ICES zones IIa and IV is replaced by the following:

Species:	Sandeel <i>Ammodytidae</i>	Zone:	IIIa; EC waters of IIa and IV ⁽¹⁾ SAN/2A3A4.
Denmark	335 087 ⁽²⁾	Analytical TAC. Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply. Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.	
Germany	513 ⁽³⁾		
Sweden	12 304 ⁽⁴⁾		
United Kingdom	7 324 ⁽⁵⁾		
EC	355 228 ⁽⁶⁾		
Norway	20 000 ⁽⁷⁾		
TAC	Not relevant		

⁽¹⁾ Excluding waters within 6 miles of UK baselines at Shetland, Fair Isle and Foula.

⁽²⁾ Of which no more than 320 722 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of IIa and IV. The remaining 14 365 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of ICES zone IIIa only. (SAN/*03A.)

⁽³⁾ Of which no more than 491 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of IIa and IV. The remaining 22 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of ICES zone IIIa only. (SAN/*03A.)

⁽⁴⁾ Of which no more than 11 777 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of IIa and IV. The remaining 527 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of ICES zone IIIa only. (SAN/*03A.)

⁽⁵⁾ Of which no more than 7 010 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of IIa and IV. The remaining 314 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of ICES zone IIIa only. (SAN/*03A.)

⁽⁶⁾ Of which no more than 340 000 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of ICES zones IIa and IV. The remaining 15 228 tonnes may be fished in EC waters of ICES zone IIIa only. (SAN/*03A.)

⁽⁷⁾ To be taken in ICES zone IV.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 698/2008

of 23 July 2008

establishing a prohibition of fishing for blue whiting in EC and international waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIc, VIIIe, XII and XIV by vessels flying the flag of Lithuania

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 26(4) thereof,Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to common fisheries policy⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 of 16 January 2008 fixing for 2008 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Community waters and for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required⁽³⁾, lays down quotas for 2008.
- (2) According to the information received by the Commission, catches of the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein have exhausted the quota allocated for 2008.

- (3) It is therefore necessary to prohibit fishing for that stock and its retention on board, transhipment and landing,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1***Quota exhaustion**

The fishing quota allocated to the Member State referred to in the Annex to this Regulation for the stock referred to therein for 2008 shall be deemed to be exhausted from the date set out in that Annex.

*Article 2***Prohibitions**

Fishing for the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein shall be prohibited from the date set out in that Annex. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land such stock caught by those vessels after that date.

*Article 3***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of 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, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Fokion FOTIADIS

Director-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 865/2007 (OJ L 192, 24.7.2007, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 (OJ L 409, 30.12.2006, p. 11), as last corrected by OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p. 6.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 19, 23.1.2008, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 641/2008 (OJ L 178, 5.7.2008, p. 17).

ANNEX

No	18/T&Q
Member State	LTU
Stock	WHB/1X14
Species	Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>)
Area	EC and international waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIc, VIIIe, XII and XIV
Date	3.6.2008

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 699/2008**of 23 July 2008****establishing a prohibition of fishing for whiting in ICES zones VIIb, VIIc, VIId, VIIe, VIIf, VIIg, VIIh and VIIk by vessels flying the flag of the Netherlands**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 26(4) thereof,Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to common fisheries policy ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 of 16 January 2008 fixing for 2008 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Community waters and for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required ⁽³⁾, lays down quotas for 2008.
- (2) According to the information received by the Commission, catches of the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein have exhausted the quota allocated for 2008.

- (3) It is therefore necessary to prohibit fishing for that stock and its retention on board, transhipment and landing,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1***Quota exhaustion**

The fishing quota allocated to the Member State referred to in the Annex to this Regulation for the stock referred to therein for 2008 shall be deemed to be exhausted from the date set out in that Annex.

*Article 2***Prohibitions**

Fishing for the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein shall be prohibited from the date set out in that Annex. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land such stock caught by those vessels after that date.

*Article 3***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Fokion FOTIADIS

Director-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 865/2007 (OJ L 192, 24.7.2007, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 (OJ L 409, 30.12.2006, p. 11, corrected by OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p. 6).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 19, 23.1.2008, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 641/2008 (OJ L 178, 5.7.2008, p. 17).

ANNEX

No	20/T&Q
Member State	NLD
Stock	WHG/7X7A.
Species	Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)
Zone	ICES zones VIIb, VIIc, VIId, VIIe, VIIf, VIIf, VIIh and VIIk
Date	21.5.2008

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 700/2008**of 23 July 2008****establishing a prohibition of fishing for cod in VIIb-k, VIII, IX, X; EC waters of CECAF 34.1.1 by vessels flying the flag of the Netherlands**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 26(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to common fisheries policy ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 of 16 January 2008 fixing for 2008 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Community waters and for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required ⁽³⁾, lays down quotas for 2008.
- (2) According to the information received by the Commission, catches of the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein have exhausted the quota allocated for 2008.

- (3) It is therefore necessary to prohibit fishing for that stock and its retention on board, transshipment and landing,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1***Quota exhaustion**

The fishing quota allocated to the Member State referred to in the Annex to this Regulation for the stock referred to therein for 2008 shall be deemed to be exhausted from the date set out in that Annex.

*Article 2***Prohibitions**

Fishing for the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein shall be prohibited from the date set out in that Annex. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land such stock caught by those vessels after that date.

*Article 3***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Fokion FOTIADIS

Director-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 865/2007 (OJ L 192, 24.7.2007, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 (OJ L 409, 30.12.2006, p. 11), as last corrected by OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p. 6.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 19, 23.1.2008, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 641/2008 (OJ L 178, 5.7.2008, p. 17).

ANNEX

No	19/T&Q
Member State	NLD
Stock	COD/7X7A34
Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Area	VIIb-k, VIII, IX, X; EC waters of CECAF 34.1.1
Date	21.5.2008

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 701/2008**of 23 July 2008****establishing a prohibition of fishing for cod in Norwegian waters of I and II by vessels flying the flag of Poland**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 26(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to common fisheries policy ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 40/2008 of 16 January 2008 fixing for 2008 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Community waters and for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required ⁽³⁾, lays down quotas for 2008.
- (2) According to the information received by the Commission, catches of the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein have exhausted the quota allocated for 2008.

- (3) It is therefore necessary to prohibit fishing for that stock and its retention on board, transhipment and landing,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1***Quota exhaustion**

The fishing quota allocated to the Member State referred to in the Annex to this Regulation for the stock referred to therein for 2008 shall be deemed to be exhausted from the date set out in that Annex.

*Article 2***Prohibitions**

Fishing for the stock referred to in the Annex to this Regulation by vessels flying the flag of or registered in the Member State referred to therein shall be prohibited from the date set out in that Annex. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land such stock caught by those vessels after that date.

*Article 3***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Fokion FOTIADIS

Director-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 865/2007 (OJ L 192, 24.7.2007, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 (OJ L 409, 30.12.2006, p. 11, corrected by OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p. 6).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 19, 23.1.2008, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 641/2008 (OJ L 178, 5.7.2008, p. 17).

ANNEX

No	21/T&Q
Member State	POL
Stock	COD/1N2AB.
Species	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)
Area	Norwegian waters of I and II
Date	12.6.2008

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 702/2008
of 23 July 2008
amending Council Regulation (EC) No 314/2004 concerning certain restrictive measures in respect of Zimbabwe

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Regulation (EC) No 314/2004 should, therefore, be amended accordingly.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

(3) In order to ensure that the measures provided for in this Regulation are effective, this Regulation should enter into force immediately,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 314/2004 of 19 February 2004 concerning certain restrictive measures in respect of Zimbabwe ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 11(b) thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Whereas:

Article 1

(1) Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 314/2004 lists the persons covered by the freezing of funds and economic resources under that Regulation.

Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 314/2004 is hereby amended as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

(2) Council Decision 2008/605/CFSP of 22 July 2008 ⁽²⁾ amends the Annex to Common Position 2004/161/CFSP ⁽³⁾ by adding 41 names. Annex III to

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of 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, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Eneko LANDÁBURU

Director-General for External Relations

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 55, 24.2.2004, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 777/2007 (OJ L 173, 3.7.2007, p. 3).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 194, 23.7.2008, p. 34.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 50, 20.2.2004, p. 66. Common Position as last amended by Common Position 2008/135/CFSP (OJ L 43, 19.2.2008, p. 39).

ANNEX

Annex III to Regulation (EC) 314/2004 is amended as follows:

(a) after the title of Annex III the following heading is inserted:

'(1) Natural persons'

(b) the following natural persons are added after number 131 of the list:

Name	Function/reasons for listing
'132. Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Abu Basutu	Matebeleland South, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
133. Chimedza, Paul, Dr	President of the World Medical Association, Zimbabwe branch, who has refused to assist MDC (opposition) victims
134. Chingoka, Peter	Head of Zimbabwe Cricket Federation, who expressed public support for the electoral campaign of terror
135. Chinotimba, Joseph	Deputy Chairman, Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans, Zanu-PF militia leader
136. Col. Chipwere	Bindura South, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
137. Chiremba, Mirirai	Central Bank (RBZ) Financial Intelligence Unit Chief
138. Chiwenga, Jocelyne	Business woman and wife of the Commander of the Zimbabwe Defence Force (General Chiwenga)
139. Dube, Tshingo	MD/CEO Zimbabwe Defence Industries and ZANU-PF parliamentary candidate
140. Gono, Gideon	Governor of Central Bank (RBZ)
141. Col. C. T. Gurira	Mhondoro Mubaira, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
142. Col. Gwekwerere	Chinhoyi, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
143. Huni, Munyaradzi	Journalist at the public and pro-government newspaper <i>The Herald</i> , who incited the electoral campaign of terror
144. Jangara, Thomsen	Assistant Commissioner/Chief Superintendent, officer in charge, based at Southerton, commands Harare South, Perpetrator of violence in March 2007
145. Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Karakadzai	Harare Metropolitan Province, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
146. Kazembe, Joyce	[Deputy] Vice-President of Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC)
147. Kereke, Munyaradzi	Principal Advisor to Central Bank (RBZ) Governor Gideon Gono
148. Brig. Gen. Khumalo	Matebeleland North, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
149. Maj. R. Kwenda	Zaka East, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
150. Col. G. Mashava	Chiredzi Central, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
151. Col. F. Mhonda	Rushinga, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror

Name	Function/reasons for listing
152. Moyo, Gilbert	"War veteran" involved in numerous crimes in Mashonaland West (Chegutu), Zanu-PF militia leader
153. Lt. Col. Mpabanga	Mwenezi East, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
154. Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Muchena	Midlands, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
155. Lt. Col. Muchono	Mwenezi West, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
156. Col. Mutsvunguma	Headlands, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
157. Col. M. Mzilikazi (MID)	Buhera Central, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
158. Brig. Gen. D. Nyikayaramba	Mashonaland East, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
159. Patel, Bharat	New acting Attorney-General
160. Rangwani, Dani	Detective Inspector, involved in torture and detention of MDC activists, Perpetrator of violence in March 2007
161. Maj. Gen. E. A. Rugeje	Masvingo Province, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
162. Brig. Gen. Rungani	Retired Brigadier General, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
163. Brig. Gen. Shungu	Mashonaland Central, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
164. Col. C. Sibanda	Bulawayo Province, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
165. Brig. Gen. Sigauke	Mash West Province, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
166. Brig. Gen. Tarumbwa	Manicaland and Mutare South, Perpetrator of the electoral campaign of terror
167. Tonderai Matibiri, Innocent	Deputy Police Commissioner (Mugabe's African nephew or "close cousin", brought in at senior level to take over as next police Commissioner), Perpetrator of violence in March 2007
168. Zvayi, Caesar	Journalist at the public and pro-government newspaper <i>The Herald</i> , who incited the electoral campaign of terror'

(c) The following heading is added:

'(2) Legal persons, entities or bodies

Name	Reasons for listing/address
169. Cold Comfort Farm Trust Co-operative	Owned by Didymus Mutasa, Grace Mugabe also involved. Address: 7 Cowie Road, Tynwald, Harare, Zimbabwe
170. Jongwe Printing and Publishing Company (PVT) Ltd (<i>alias</i> (a) Jongwe Company (PVT) Ltd; (b) Jongwe printing and publishing company)	Zanu-PF's publishing arm. Address: (a) 14 Austin Road, Coventry Road, Workington, Harare, Zimbabwe, (b) PO Box 5988, Harare, Zimbabwe
171. Zidco Holdings (<i>alias</i> Zidco Holdings (PVT) Ltd)	Zanu-PF financial holding company. Address: PO Box 1275, Harare, Zimbabwe
172. Zimbabwe Defence Industries (PVT) Ltd	Wholly owned by the Government of Zimbabwe. Directors include Leo Mugabe and Solomon Mujuru. Address: 10th Floor, Trustee House, 55 Samora Machel Avenue, PO Box 6597, Harare, Zimbabwe'

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 703/2008**of 23 July 2008****amending the representative prices and additional duties for the import of certain products in the sugar sector fixed by Regulation (EC) No 1109/2007 for the 2007/08 marketing year**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 318/2006 of 20 February 2006 on the common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 951/2006 of 30 June 2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 318/2006 as regards trade with third countries in the sugar sector ⁽²⁾, and in particular of the Article 36,

Whereas:

(1) The representative prices and additional duties applicable to imports of white sugar, raw sugar and certain syrups

for the 2007/08 marketing year are fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1109/2007 ⁽³⁾. These prices and duties have been last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 688/2008 ⁽⁴⁾.

(2) The data currently available to the Commission indicate that the said amounts should be changed in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in Regulation (EC) No 951/2006,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The representative prices and additional duties on imports of the products referred to in Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 951/2006, as fixed by Regulation (EC) No 1109/2007 for the 2007/08 marketing year are hereby amended as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 24 July 2008.

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

Done at Brussels, 23 July 2008.

For the Commission

Jean-Luc DEMARTY

*Director-General for Agriculture and
Rural Development*

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 58, 28.2.2006, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1260/2007 (OJ L 283, 27.10.2007, p. 1). Regulation (EC) No 318/2006 will be replaced by Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 299, 16.11.2007, p. 1) as from 1 October 2008.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 178, 1.7.2006, p. 24. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 514/2008 (OJ L 150, 10.6.2008, p. 7).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 253, 28.9.2007, p. 5.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 192, 19.7.2008, p. 49.

ANNEX

Amended representative prices and additional duties applicable to imports of white sugar, raw sugar and products covered by CN code 1702 90 95 applicable from 24 July 2008

(EUR)

CN code	Representative price per 100 kg of the product concerned	Additional duty per 100 kg of the product concerned
1701 11 10 ⁽¹⁾	21,79	5,41
1701 11 90 ⁽¹⁾	21,79	10,69
1701 12 10 ⁽¹⁾	21,79	5,22
1701 12 90 ⁽¹⁾	21,79	10,21
1701 91 00 ⁽²⁾	22,01	15,00
1701 99 10 ⁽²⁾	22,01	9,71
1701 99 90 ⁽²⁾	22,01	9,71
1702 90 95 ⁽³⁾	0,22	0,42

⁽¹⁾ Fixed for the standard quality defined in Annex I.III to Council Regulation (EC) No 318/2006 (OJ L 58, 28.2.2006, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ Fixed for the standard quality defined in Annex I.II to Regulation (EC) No 318/2006.

⁽³⁾ Fixed per 1 % sucrose content.

II

(Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is not obligatory)

DECISIONS

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 8 July 2008

in accordance with Article 122(2) of the Treaty on the adoption by Slovakia of the single currency on 1 January 2009

(2008/608/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 122(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

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

Having regard to the report from the European Central Bank ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament ⁽³⁾,

Having regard to the discussion of the Council, meeting in the composition of Heads of State or Government,

Whereas:

(1) The third stage of economic and monetary union (hereinafter referred to as 'EMU') started on 1 January 1999. By Decision 98/317/EC ⁽⁴⁾, the Council, meeting in Brussels on 3 May 1998 in the composition of Heads

of State or Government, found that Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland fulfilled the necessary conditions for adopting the single currency on 1 January 1999.

(2) By Decision 2000/427/EC ⁽⁵⁾ the Council decided that Greece fulfilled the necessary conditions for adopting the single currency on 1 January 2001. By Decision 2006/495/EC ⁽⁶⁾ the Council decided that Slovenia fulfilled the necessary conditions for adopting the single currency on 1 January 2007. By Decisions 2007/503/EC ⁽⁷⁾ and 2007/504/EC ⁽⁸⁾ the Council decided that Cyprus and Malta fulfilled the necessary conditions for adopting the single currency on 1 January 2008.

(3) In accordance with paragraph 1 of the Protocol on certain provisions relating to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland annexed to the Treaty, the United Kingdom notified the Council that it did not intend to move to the third stage of EMU on 1 January 1999. This notification has not been changed. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the Protocol on certain provisions relating to Denmark annexed to the Treaty and the Decision taken by the Heads of State or Government in Edinburgh in December 1992, Denmark has notified the Council that it will not participate in the third stage of EMU. Denmark has not requested that the procedure referred to in Article 122(2) of the Treaty be initiated.

⁽¹⁾ Report adopted on 7 May 2008.

⁽²⁾ Report adopted on 6 May 2008.

⁽³⁾ Opinion delivered on 17 June 2008 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 139, 11.5.1998, p. 30.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 167, 7.7.2000, p. 19.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 195, 15.7.2006, p. 25.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 186, 18.7.2007, p. 29.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 186, 18.7.2007, p. 32.

- (4) By virtue of Decision 98/317/EC Sweden has a derogation as defined in Article 122 of the Treaty. In accordance with Article 4 of the 2003 Act of Accession, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have a derogation as defined in Article 122 of the Treaty. In accordance with Article 5 of the 2005 Act of Accession, Bulgaria and Romania have a derogation as defined in Article 122 of the Treaty.
- (5) The European Central Bank (hereinafter referred to as 'ECB') was established on 1 July 1998. The European Monetary System has been replaced by an exchange-rate mechanism, the setting-up of which was agreed by a resolution of the European Council on the establishment of an exchange-rate mechanism in the third stage of economic and monetary union of 16 June 1997⁽¹⁾. The procedures for an exchange-rate mechanism in stage three of economic and monetary union (ERM II) were laid down in the Agreement of 16 March 2006 between the ECB and the national central banks of the Member States outside the euro area laying down the operating procedures for an exchange-rate mechanism in stage three of economic and monetary union⁽²⁾.
- (6) Article 122(2) of the Treaty lays down the procedures for abrogation of the derogation of the Member States concerned. According to that Article at least once every two years, or at the request of a Member State with a derogation, the Commission and the ECB are to report to the Council in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 121(1) of the Treaty. The most recent Commission and ECB regular Convergence Reports were adopted in May 2008. Slovakia submitted a formal request for a convergence assessment on 4 April 2008.
- (7) National legislation in the Member States including the statutes of national central banks is to be adapted as necessary with a view to ensuring compatibility with Articles 108 and 109 of the Treaty and the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (hereinafter referred to as 'Statute of the ESCB'). The reports of the Commission and the ECB provide a detailed assessment of the compatibility of the legislation of Slovakia with Articles 108 and 109 of the Treaty and the Statute of the ESCB.
- (8) According to Article 1 of the Protocol on the convergence criteria referred to in Article 121 of the Treaty, the criterion concerning price stability referred to in the first indent of Article 121(1) of the Treaty means that a Member State has a price performance that is sustainable and an average rate of inflation, observed over a period of one year before the examination, that does not exceed by more than one and a half percentage points that of, at most, the three best performing Member States in terms of price stability. For the purpose of the criterion concerning price stability, inflation is measured by the harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICPs) defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 of 23 October 1995 concerning harmonised indices of consumer prices⁽³⁾. In order to assess the price stability criterion a Member State's inflation is measured by the percentage change in the arithmetic average of 12 monthly indices relative to the arithmetic average of 12 monthly indices of the previous period. In the one-year period ending in March 2008, the three best-performing Member States in terms of price stability were Malta, the Netherlands and Denmark, with inflation rates of, respectively 1,5 percent, 1,7 percent and 2,0 percent. A reference value calculated as the simple arithmetic average of the inflation rates of the three best-performing Member States in terms of price stability plus 1,5 percentage points was considered in the reports of the Commission and the ECB. On this basis, the reference value in the one-year period ending in March 2008 was 3,2 percent.
- (9) According to Article 2 of the Protocol on the convergence criteria referred to in Article 121 of the Treaty, the criterion concerning the government budgetary position referred to in the second indent of Article 121(1) of the Treaty means that at the time of the examination the Member State is not the subject of a Council Decision under Article 104(6) of the Treaty that an excessive deficit exists.
- (10) According to Article 3 of the Protocol on the convergence criteria referred to in Article 121 of the Treaty, the criterion concerning participation in the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System referred to in the third indent of Article 121(1) of the Treaty means that a Member State has respected the normal fluctuation margins provided for by the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System without severe tensions for at least the last two years before the examination. In particular, the Member State must not have devalued its currency's bilateral central rate against any other Member State's currency on its own initiative for the same period. Since 1 January 1999 the ERM II provides the framework for assessing the fulfilment of the exchange-rate criterion. In assessing the fulfilment of this criterion in their reports, the Commission and the ECB have examined the two-year period ending on 18 April 2008.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 236, 2.8.1997, p. 5.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 73, 25.3.2006, p. 21. Agreement as amended by the Agreement of 14 December 2007 (OJ C 319, 29.12.2007, p. 7).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 257, 27.10.1995, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 284, 31.10.2003, p. 1).

(11) According to Article 4 of the Protocol on the convergence criteria referred to in Article 121 of the Treaty, the criterion concerning the convergence of interest rates referred to in the fourth indent of Article 121(1) of the Treaty means that, observed over a period of one year before the examination, a Member State has had an average nominal long-term interest rate that does not exceed by more than two percentage points that of, at most, the three best performing Member States in terms of price stability. For the purpose of the criteria concerning the convergence of interest rates, comparable interest rates on 10-year benchmark government bonds were used. In order to assess the fulfilment of the interest-rate criterion a reference value calculated as the simple arithmetic average of the nominal long-term interest rates of the three best performing Member States in terms of price stability plus two percentage points was considered in the reports of the Commission and the ECB. On this basis, the reference value in the one-year period ending in March 2008 was 6,5 percent.

(12) In accordance with Article 5 of the Protocol on the convergence criteria referred to in Article 121 of the Treaty, the data used in the current assessment of the fulfilment of the convergence criteria are to be provided by the Commission. For the preparation of this decision the Commission provided data. Budgetary data were provided by the Commission after reporting by the Member States by 1 April 2008 in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 3605/93 of 22 November 1993 on the application of the Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community ⁽¹⁾.

(13) On the basis of reports presented by the Commission and the ECB on the progress made in the fulfilment by Slovakia of its obligations regarding the achievement of economic and monetary union, the Commission concluded that:

— in Slovakia, national legislation, including the Statute of the national central bank, is compatible with Articles 108 and 109 of the Treaty and the Statute of the ESCB,

— regarding the fulfilment by Slovakia of the convergence criteria mentioned in the four indents of Article 121(1) of the Treaty:

— the average inflation rate in Slovakia in the year ending March 2008 stood at 2,2 percent, which is

well below the reference value, and it is likely to remain below the reference value in the months ahead, albeit with a narrowing margin,

— the budget deficit in Slovakia has seen a credible and sustainable reduction to below 3 percent of GDP; the Commission therefore recommended to the Council to abrogate Decision 2005/182/EC of 5 July 2004 on the existence of an excessive deficit for Slovakia ⁽²⁾,

— Slovakia has been a member of ERM II since 28 November 2005; in the two-year period ending 18 April 2008, the Slovak koruna (SKK) has not been subject to severe tensions and Slovakia has not devalued, on its own initiative, the SKK bilateral central rate against the euro,

— in the year ending March 2008, the long-term interest rate in Slovakia was, on average, 4,5 percent which is below the reference value.

In the light of the assessment on legal compatibility and on the fulfilment of the convergence criteria as well as the additional factors, and provided that Decision 2005/182/EC on the existence of an excessive deficit is abrogated by the Council, Slovakia fulfils the necessary conditions for the adoption of the euro.

(14) By Decision 2008/562/EC ⁽³⁾ the Council, acting on a recommendation from the Commission, abrogated Decision 2005/182/EC on the existence of an excessive deficit in Slovakia.

(15) According to Article 122(2) of the Treaty the Council, acting by qualified majority on a proposal by the Commission, is to decide which Member States with a derogation fulfil the necessary conditions for the adoption of the single currency and abrogate the derogations of the Member States concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Slovakia fulfils the necessary conditions for the adoption of the single currency. The derogation in favour of Slovakia referred to in Article 4 of the 2003 Act of Accession shall be abrogated with effect from 1 January 2009.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 332, 31.12.1993, p. 7. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2103/2005 (OJ L 337, 22.12.2005, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 62, 9.3.2005, p. 16.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 181, 10.7.2008, p. 43.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2008.

For the Council
The President
C. LAGARDE

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 16 July 2008

amending Decision 2006/636/EC fixing the annual breakdown by Member State of the amount for Community support to rural development for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013

(notified under document number C(2008) 3347)

(2008/609/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 69(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Decision 2006/493/EC of 19 June 2006 laying down the amount of Community support for rural development for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013, its annual breakdown and the minimum amount to be concentrated in regions eligible under the Convergence Objective ⁽²⁾ has been amended to take account of the decision by the Budgetary Authority to transfer to 2008 and the following years certain commitment appropriations for Community support for rural development under Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 that were not used in 2007, in accordance with point 48 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management ⁽³⁾.

- (2) Commission Decision 2006/636/EC ⁽⁴⁾ must be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Annex to Decision 2006/636/EC is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from the 2008 financial year.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 16 July 2008.

For the Commission
Mariann FISCHER BOEL
Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 277, 21.10.2005, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 146/2008 (OJ L 46, 21.2.2008, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 195, 15.7.2006, p. 22.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 139, 14.6.2006, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 261, 22.9.2006, p. 32. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/680/EC (OJ L 280, 24.10.2007, p. 27).

ANNEX

Breakdown by Member State of Community support for rural development for the period 2007-2013

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total 2007-2013	(Current prices EUR) Of which minimum for regions eligible under the Convergence Objective (total)
Belgium	63 991 299	63 957 784	60 238 083	59 683 509	59 267 519	56 995 480	54 476 632	418 610 306	40 744 223
Bulgaria (*)	244 055 793	337 144 772	437 343 751	399 098 664	398 058 913	397 696 922	395 699 781	2 609 098 596	692 192 783
Czech Republic	396 623 321	392 638 892	388 036 387	400 932 774	406 640 636	412 672 094	417 962 250	2 815 506 354	1 635 417 906
Denmark	62 592 573	66 344 571	63 771 254	64 334 762	63 431 467	62 597 618	61 588 551	444 660 796	0
Germany	1 184 995 564	1 186 941 705	1 147 425 574	1 156 018 553	1 159 359 200	1 146 661 509	1 131 114 950	8 112 517 055	3 174 037 771
Estonia	95 608 462	95 569 377	95 696 594	100 929 353	104 639 066	108 913 401	113 302 602	714 658 855	387 221 654
Ireland	373 683 516	355 014 220	329 171 422	333 372 252	324 698 528	316 771 063	307 203 589	2 339 914 590	0
Greece	461 376 206	463 470 078	453 393 090	452 018 509	631 768 186	626 030 398	619 247 957	3 707 304 424	1 905 697 195
Spain	286 654 092	1 277 647 305	1 246 359 901	1 253 424 047	1 057 772 000	1 050 937 191	1 041 123 263	7 213 917 799	3 178 127 204
France	931 041 833	942 359 146	898 672 939	909 225 155	933 778 147	921 205 557	905 682 332	6 441 965 109	568 263 981
Italy	1 142 143 461	1 135 428 298	1 101 390 921	1 116 626 236	1 271 659 589	1 266 602 382	1 258 158 996	8 292 009 883	3 341 091 825
Cyprus	26 704 860	24 772 842	22 749 762	23 071 507	22 402 714	21 783 947	21 037 942	162 523 574	0
Latvia	152 867 493	147 768 241	142 542 483	147 766 381	148 781 700	150 188 774	151 198 432	1 041 113 504	327 682 815
Lithuania	260 974 835	248 836 020	236 928 998	244 741 536	248 002 433	250 278 098	253 598 173	1 743 360 093	679 189 192
Luxembourg	14 421 997	13 661 411	12 655 487	12 818 190	12 487 289	12 181 368	11 812 084	90 037 826	0
Hungary	570 811 818	537 525 661	498 635 432	509 252 494	547 603 625	563 304 619	578 709 743	3 805 843 392	2 496 094 593
Malta	12 434 359	11 527 788	10 656 597	10 544 212	10 347 884	10 459 190	10 663 325	76 633 355	18 077 067
Netherlands	70 536 869	72 638 338	69 791 337	70 515 293	68 706 648	67 782 449	66 550 233	486 521 167	0
Austria	628 154 610	594 709 669	550 452 057	557 557 505	541 670 574	527 868 629	511 056 948	3 911 469 992	31 938 190
Poland	1 989 717 841	1 932 933 351	1 872 739 817	1 866 782 838	1 860 573 543	1 857 244 519	1 850 046 247	13 230 038 156	6 997 976 121
Portugal	560 524 173	562 491 944	552 040 154	559 861 895	565 142 601	565 192 105	564 072 156	3 929 325 028	2 180 735 857
Romania (**)	0	1 146 687 683	1 442 871 530	1 359 770 651	1 357 854 634	1 359 146 997	1 356 173 250	8 022 504 745	1 995 991 720
Slovenia	149 549 387	139 868 094	129 728 049	128 304 946	123 026 091	117 808 866	111 981 296	900 266 729	287 815 759
Slovakia	303 163 265	286 531 906	268 049 256	256 310 239	263 028 387	275 025 447	317 309 578	1 969 418 078	1 106 011 592
Finland	335 121 543	316 143 440	292 385 407	296 367 134	287 790 092	280 508 238	271 617 053	2 079 932 907	0
Sweden	292 133 703	277 225 207	256 996 031	260 397 463	252 975 513	246 760 755	239 159 282	1 825 647 954	0
United Kingdom	263 996 373	645 001 582	698 582 271	741 000 084	748 834 332	752 295 626	748 964 152	4 598 674 420	188 337 515
Total	10 873 879 246	13 274 839 325	13 279 304 584	13 290 726 182	13 470 301 311	13 424 913 242	13 369 510 797	90 983 474 687	31 232 644 963

(*) For the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, the appropriations originating from the EAGGF Guarantee Section amount respectively to EUR 193 715 561, EUR 263 453 163 and EUR 337 004 104.

(**) For the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, the appropriations originating from the EAGGF Guarantee Section amount respectively to EUR 610 786 223, EUR 831 389 081 and EUR 1 058 369 098.