

English edition

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(Acts adopted pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union)

COUNCIL COMMON POSITION
of 22 October 1999
on support to democratic forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY)

(1999/691/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and in particular Article 15 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) in its conclusions of 19 July 1999 the Council attached great importance to developing contacts with all democratic forces, including democratically governed municipalities in the country, with the aim of fostering democratisation in the FRY;
- (2) the Council also agreed that ways and means should be identified to alleviate the situation of those forces, including by providing energy;
- (3) the Council also stressed the distinction between the Belgrade regime and the population of the FRY, which will be taken into account in decisions on sanctions;
- (4) in its conclusions of 13 September 1999, the Council reaffirmed its intention to continue to support democratic change in the FRY and to reach out to the Serbian people and democratic forces in the country in their efforts to promote democratisation and civil society;
- (5) the Council agreed that the time has come to establish formal contacts with the representatives of democratic forces in the FRY;
- (6) the Council decided to invite representatives of the democratic opposition parties and civil society in Serbia and of the Government of Montenegro to meet for discussions to support them in their efforts to promote democratisation;
- (7) the Council also agreed to re-evaluate the present support activities and intensify concrete projects of the Union in Serbia in relevant fields, such as support for democratic media;
- (8) the Council strongly supported the launching of the pilot project proposed by G17 in the framework of the 'Energy for Democracy' initiative, under which the cities of Nis and Pirot will first be provided with heating oil as

energy assistance; the project could later be expanded to other municipalities,

HAS ADOPTED THIS COMMON POSITION:

Article 1

In order to foster democratisation in the FRY, the European Union will actively support all forces which demonstrate their full commitment to democratic values.

Article 2

The support stated in Article 1 shall be geared in particular to the following activities:

- developing dialogue with democratically oriented local leaders and leaders of civic organisations, *inter alia*, through meetings in the margins of the General Affairs Council;
- establishing a shared process which will provide a forum for genuine discussion on political and technical issues;
- supporting the launching of the pilot project proposed by G17 in the framework of the 'Energy for Democracy' initiative on providing Serbian municipalities with energy;
- intensifying support for democratic media and other relevant fields.

Article 3

This Common Position shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Article 4

This Common Position shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 22 October 1999.

For the Council
The President
S. MÖNKÄRE

I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2243/1999
of 22 October 1999
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 1498/98 ⁽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 23 October 1999.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 October 1999.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 337, 24.12.1994, p. 66.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 198, 15.7.1998, p. 4.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 22 October 1999 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	117,2
	204	60,4
	999	88,8
0707 00 05	052	76,1
	628	119,3
	999	97,7
0709 90 70	052	53,0
	999	53,0
0805 30 10	052	64,7
	388	68,3
	524	53,9
	528	65,2
	600	50,9
	999	60,6
0806 10 10	052	107,1
	064	102,0
	400	232,1
	999	147,1
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	400	60,4
	800	176,1
	804	31,1
	999	89,2
0808 20 50	052	94,7
	064	62,4
	388	171,9
	999	109,7

⁽¹⁾ Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2645/98 (OJ L 335, 10.12.1998, p. 22). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2244/1999
of 22 October 1999
on the issuing of export licences for wine-sector products

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/95 of 11 July 1995 on arrangements for issuing export licences for wine-sector products ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2182/1999 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 3(3) thereof,

- (1) Whereas Article 55(7) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 of 16 March 1987 on the common organisation of the market in wine ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1677/1999 ⁽⁴⁾, limits the grant of export refunds for wine-sector products to the volumes and expenditure contained in the Agreement on Agriculture concluded during the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations;
- (2) Whereas Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1685/95 lays down the conditions under which the Commission may take specific measures to prevent an overrun of the quantity laid down or the budget available under the said Agreement;
- (3) Whereas, on the basis of information on export licence applications available to the Commission on 20 October 1999, the quantity still available for the period until 15 November 1999, for zones (3) Eastern Europe and (4) Western Europe referred to in Article 3(4a) of Regulation (EC) No 1685/95, could be exceeded unless the

issue of export licences with advance fixing of the refund is restricted; whereas, therefore, a single percentage for the acceptance of applications submitted between 15 and 19 October 1999 should be applied and the submission of applications and the issue of licences suspended until 15 November 1999, for zones (3) Eastern Europe and (4) Western Europe referred to in Article 3(4a) of Regulation (EC) No 1685/95,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Export licences with advance fixing of the refund for wine-sector products for which applications are submitted between 15 and 19 October 1999 under Regulation (EC) No 1685/95 shall be issued for 73,5 % of the quantities requested for zone (3) Eastern Europe, and for 62,2 % of the quantities requested for zone (4) Western Europe.

2. The issue of export licences for wine-sector products referred to in paragraph 1 for which applications are submitted from 20 October 1999 and the submission of export licence applications from 23 October 1999 shall be suspended until 15 November 1999.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 23 October 1999.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 October 1999.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 12.7.1995, p. 2.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 267, 15.10.1999, p. 21.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 84, 27.3.1987, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 199, 30.7.1999, p. 8.

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2245/1999
of 22 October 1999**

amending Regulation (EC) No 1663/95 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 regarding the procedure for the clearance of the accounts of the EAGGF Guarantee Section

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 of 21 April 1970 on the financing of the common agricultural policy ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1287/95 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 4(6) and 5(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) in the light of experience, a number of changes and clarifications should be made to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1663/95 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 896/97 ⁽⁴⁾, in particular with regard to the accreditation criteria for executing payments and the provisions concerning the need to avoid conflicts of interest in the work of persons occupying positions of responsibility in paying agencies;
- (2) details of amounts still to be recovered should be included in the annual accounts of paying agencies;
- (3) it is neither right nor fair for the Commission to give an evaluation of the expenditure it intends to exclude under Article 5(2)(c) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 as a result of its findings before the Member State has had the opportunity to reply;
- (4) expenditure must be excluded for the whole period during which Community rules are infringed;
- (5) the EAGGF Committee has delivered a favourable opinion,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1663/95 is amended as follows:

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

'The form and content of the accounting information referred to in paragraph 1 shall be established in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70.'

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 94, 28.4.1970, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 125, 8.6.1995, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 158, 8.7.1995, p. 6.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 128, 21.5.1997, p. 8.

2. The following point (f) is added to Article 5(1):

'(f) a summary of amounts in the process of being recovered, broken down by financial year in which the recovery order was issued and a summary of the amounts recognised during the year as unrecoverable.'

3. Article 8(1) is replaced by the following:

'1. If, as a result of an enquiry, the Commission considers that expenditure has not been effected according to Community rules, it shall notify the Member State concerned of the results of its checks and indicate the corrective measures to be taken to ensure future compliance.

The communication shall refer to this Regulation. The Member State shall reply within two months and the Commission may modify its position in consequence. In justified cases, the Commission may extend the period allowed for reply.

After expiry of the period allowed for reply, the Commission shall invite the Member State to a bilateral discussion and the parties shall endeavour to reach agreement on the measures to be taken and on an evaluation of the gravity of the infringement and the financial loss to the Community. Following that discussion and any deadline after the discussion fixed by the Commission, after consultation of the Member States, for the provision of further information or, where the Member State does not accept the invitation to a meeting before the deadline set by the Commission, after that deadline has passed, the Commission shall formally communicate its conclusions to the Member State, referring to Commission Decision 94/442/EC (*). Without prejudice to the fourth subparagraph of this paragraph, that communication shall include an evaluation of any expenditure the Commission intends to exclude under Article 5(2)(c) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70.

The Member State shall inform the Commission as soon as possible of the corrective measures adopted to ensure compliance with Community rules and the date of their entry into force. The Commission shall, as appropriate, adopt one or more Decisions under Article 5(2)(c) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 to exclude expenditure affected by non-compliance with Community rules up to the date of entry into force of the corrective measures.

(*) OJ L 182, 16.7.1994, p. 45.'

4. The Annex is amended as follows:

(a) A new point 4a is added:

'4a. With the prior agreement of the Commission and in the case of co-financed measures only, where a large number of small payments must be made, payments to applicants for aid may be delegated to other bodies. A written agreement must be concluded between the paying agency and that body specifying the nature of the information and the supporting documents to be submitted to the paying agency and the time limit within which they must be submitted; they must as a minimum permit the paying agency to comply with the accreditation criteria and to meet the deadlines laid down for the submission of monthly and annual accounts. The paying agency shall remain responsible for the efficient management of the funds concerned and for updating accounting records. The authorised agents of the paying agency, the certifying body and the European Union shall have the right to examine any evidence held by the abovementioned body and to carry out checks on applicants for aid.'

(b) The following is added to point 5:

'The administrative subunit responsible for the execution of the payments, or else a unit responsible for supervising it, shall have available documentary evidence of the authorisation of claims, and of the administrative and physical checks prescribed. The information and the evidence may be in a summary form equivalent to that described in point 4(iv) of this Annex, and it may be provided through a computerised system.'

(c) The following sentence is added to the second subparagraph of point 6(ii):

'Appropriate measures must be taken to avoid a conflict of interests where a person occupying a position of responsibility or a sensitive position with regard to the verification, authorisation and payment of claims on the Fund also fulfils other functions outside the paying agency.'

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 22 October 1999.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2246/1999
of 22 October 1999
amending Regulation (EEC) No 1318/93 on detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation
(EEC) No 2067/92 on measures to promote and market quality beef and veal

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2067/92 of 30 June 1992 on measures to promote and market quality beef and veal ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1318/93 ⁽²⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 351/1999 ⁽³⁾, lays down the detailed rules for applying the above Regulation;
- (2) the applications for financing submitted to the Commission for 1999 considerably exceed the budget available for this measure. The proposals must therefore be re-examined and the amount of funding adjusted, which will require an extension of the time limit of 30 September 1999 laid down for the Commission Decision on the successful applications;

- (3) the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Beef and Veal,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The following sentence is added to the first subparagraph of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1318/93:

‘For 1999 however, the Commission shall determine the successful applications by 15 December 1999.’

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 30 September 1999.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 October 1999.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 215, 30.7.1992, p. 57.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 132, 29.5.1993, p. 83.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 44, 18.2.1999, p. 10.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2247/1999
of 22 October 1999

determining the extent to which the applications for import licences submitted in October 1999 for certain dairy products under certain tariff quotas opened by Regulation (EC) No 1374/98 can be accepted

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1374/98 of 29 June 1998 laying down detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements and opening tariff quotas for milk and milk products ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1339/1999 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 14(4) thereof,

Whereas applications lodged for the products referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1374/98 concern quantities greater than those available; whereas, therefore, the allocation factors should be fixed for the quantities applied for,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Import licences applied for for products falling within the order numbers in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1374/98 listed in the Annex lodged pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1374/98 for the period 1 October to 31 December 1999, shall be awarded in accordance with the allocation factors indicated.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 23 October 1999.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 October 1999.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 185, 30.6.1998, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 159, 25.6.1999, p. 22.

ANNEX

Order number in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1374/98	TARIC order number	Period: October to December 1999 Allocation factor
36	09.4590	0,0047
37	09.4599	0,0016
39	09.4591	0,0563
40	09.4592	0,0135
41	09.4593	0,0366
42	09.4594	0,0068
44	09.4595	0,0045
47	09.4596	0,0023

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2248/1999
of 22 October 1999
on the issue of system B export licences in the fruit and vegetables sector

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2190/96 of 14 November 1996 on detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 as regards export refunds on fruit and vegetables ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1303/1999 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5(5) thereof,

- (1) Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 1926/1999 ⁽³⁾, fixes the indicative quantities for system B export licences other than those sought in the context of food aid;
- (2) Whereas, in the light of the information available to the Commission today, there is a risk that the indicative quantities laid down for the current export period for table grapes and apples for destination group F02 will shortly be exceeded; whereas this overrun will prejudice

the proper working of the export refund scheme in the fruit and vegetables sector;

- (3) Whereas, to avoid this situation, applications for system B licences for table grapes and apples for destination group F02 exported after 22 October 1999 should be rejected until the end of the current export period,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Applications for system B export licences for table grapes and apples for destination group F02 submitted pursuant to Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1926/1999, export declarations for which are accepted after 22 October 1999 and before 16 November 1999, are hereby rejected.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 23 October 1999.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 October 1999.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 12.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 155, 22.6.1999, p. 29.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 238, 9.9.1999, p. 20.

COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 1999/84/EC
of 20 October 1999
amending Directive 92/76/EEC recognising protected zones exposed to particular plant health risks
in the Community

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 77/93/EEC of 21 December 1976 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Commission Directive 1999/53/EC ⁽²⁾ and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 2(1)(h) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Directive 92/76/EEC of 6 October 1992 recognising protected zones exposed to particular plant health risks in the Community ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Directive 98/100/EC ⁽⁴⁾,

- (1) Whereas under Directive 92/76/EEC, as amended, the United Kingdom was provisionally recognised as a 'protected zone' in respect of beet necrotic yellow vein virus for a period expiring on 1 November 1999;
- (2) Whereas, from information supplied by the United Kingdom and from the information gathered by the Food and Veterinary Office during a mission carried out in 1999 it appears that the provisional recognition of the protected zone for the United Kingdom in respect of beet necrotic yellow vein virus should be extended for a further limited period to enable the responsible official bodies of the United Kingdom to complete the information on the distribution of beet necrotic yellow vein virus and to complete their efforts for the eradication of this harmful organism in the East Anglian area of the United Kingdom;
- (3) Whereas the measures provided for in this Directive are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plant Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

The date of '1 November 1999' referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 1 of Directive 92/76/EEC is hereby replaced by '1 November 2001'.

Article 2

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

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

2. Member States shall immediately communicate to the Commission the essential provisions of domestic law which they adopt in the field governed by this Directive. The Commission shall inform the other Member States thereof.

Article 3

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

Article 4

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 October 1999.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 31.1.1977, p. 20.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 142, 5.6.1999, p. 29.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 305, 21.10.1992, p. 12.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 351, 29.12.1998, p. 35.

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 20 October 1999

determining the appointing authority for the General Secretariat of the Council

(1999/692/EC, ECSC, Euratom)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Having regard to the Staff Regulations of officials of the European Communities and the Conditions of employment of other servants of the Communities, as laid down by Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 of 29 February 1968 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC, ECSC, Euratom) No 1238/1999 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 2 of those Staff Regulations and Article 6 of those Conditions,

Article 1

The powers conferred by the Staff Regulations of officials on the appointing authority and by the Conditions of employment of other servants on the authority competent to conclude staff contracts shall, as regards the General Secretariat of the Council, be exercised:

Whereas:

(1) Under the first subparagraph of Article 207(2) of the EC Treaty, the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of the ECSC Treaty and the first subparagraph of Article 121(2) of the Euratom Treaty, as amended by the Treaty of Amsterdam, which entered into force on 1 May 1999, the General Secretariat of the Council comes under the responsibility of a Secretary-General, High Representative for the common foreign and security policy, hereinafter referred to as 'the Secretary-General', assisted by a Deputy Secretary-General;

(2) A new Decision should be adopted determining the appointing authority for the General Secretariat of the Council and to repeal Decisions 63/2/Euratom and 63/9/EEC ⁽³⁾,

(a) by the Council for the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General;

(b) by the Council, on a proposal from the Secretary-General, for the application to officials or other servants in Grade 1 of Category A of Articles 1, 13, the second paragraph of Article 15, Articles 16, 22, 29, 30, 31, 32, 38, 41, 49, 50, 51, 78, 87, 88, 89 and 90; the Secretary-General is authorised to delegate his power of proposal to the Deputy Secretary-General;

(c) by the Secretary-General in other cases; the Secretary-General is authorised to delegate his powers to the Deputy Secretary-General.

The Deputy Secretary-General is authorised to delegate any powers delegated to him by the Secretary-General to the Director-General of Administration, in whole or in part, for the application of the Conditions of employment of other servants and the application of the Staff Regulations to officials in Categories B, C and D. Such delegation cannot extend to any powers delegated to him in respect of the appointment and termination of service of officials and the engagement of other servants.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 150, 17.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Council Decisions of 14 May 1962 determining the appointing authority for the Secretariat of the Councils (OJ 5, 16.1.1963, p. 33 and p. 34).

Article 2

Decisions 63/9/EEC and 63/2/Euratom are hereby repealed.

Article 3

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels, 20 October 1999.

For the Council

The President

T. HALONEN

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 5 October 1999

recognising the fully operational character of the Swedish database for bovine animals

(notified under document number C(1999) 3145)

(Only the Swedish text is authentic)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(1999/693/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 of 21 April 1997 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 6(3), first indent,

Having regard to the request submitted by Sweden,

- (1) Whereas on 23 March 1999 the Swedish authorities submitted to the Commission a request asking for recognition of the fully operational character of the Swedish database that forms part of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals in Sweden; whereas this request was accompanied by appropriate information that was updated on 9 July 1999;
- (2) Whereas the Swedish authorities have undertaken the commitment to improve the reliability of this database by ensuring in particular that: (a) all kinds of movements shall be recorded in the database, including notification of slaughter at the slaughterhouses and notification of movement to rendering plants, (b) the competent authorities will take measures to be able to promptly correct any errors or deficiencies which could be detected automatically or following the appropriate on-the-spot inspections, (c) measures will be implemented in order to improve their current provisions regarding re-identification of bovine animals in case of lost eartags as to comply with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 820/97, (d) measures will be taken to ensure full involvement of the veterinary services on the implementation of the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 820/97, (e) measures will be taken to enforce the current provisions of the national legislation regarding notification delays of all movements (15 days), (f) measures should be introduced to ensure established follow-up procedures, in order to fully comply with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2630/97 ⁽²⁾ as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 132/1999 ⁽³⁾, and of Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/98 ⁽⁴⁾, measures should be introduced to comply with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 2629/97 ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 331/1999 ⁽⁶⁾, as regards eartags and also as regards recording of the premium status on the passports, and (h) measures should be introduced to provide for full movement records of all animals born in the EU; whereas the Swedish authorities have undertaken the commitment to implement those improvement measures at the latest by 31 October 1999; whereas the Swedish authorities have undertaken to inform the Commission in the event of any problems occurring during the implementation period of the above mentioned measures;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 117, 7.5.1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 354, 30.12.1997, p. 23.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 17, 22.1.1999, p. 20.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 60, 28.2.1998, p. 78.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 354, 30.12.1997, p. 19.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 40, 13.2.1999, p. 27.

- (3) Whereas in view of the evaluation of the situation in Sweden, it is appropriate to recognise the fully operational character of the database for bovine animals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Swedish database for bovine animals is recognised as fully operational from 1 November 1999.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Done at Brussels, 5 October 1999.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission
