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I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 926/98
of 27 April 1998
concerning the reduction of certain economic relations with the Federal
Republic of Yugoslavia

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Articles 73g and 228a thereof,

Having regard to Common Position 98/240/CFSP of 19 March 1998 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union on restrictive measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the said Common Position 98/240/CFSP provides for restrictive measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including action by the Community to reduce certain economic relations;

Whereas certain of these measures fall within the scope of the Treaty establishing the European Community;

Whereas, therefore, and notably with a view to avoiding distortion of competition, Community legislation is necessary for the implementation of these measures, as far as the territory of the Community is concerned; whereas such territory is deemed to encompass, for the purposes of this Regulation, all the territories of the Member States to which the Treaty establishing the European Community is applicable, under the conditions laid down in that Treaty;

Whereas a procedure should be provided to amend, if necessary, the list of equipment which might be used for internal repression or terrorism;

Whereas there is a need for the Commission and the Member States to inform each other of the measures taken under this Regulation and of other relevant information at their disposal in connection with this Regu-

lation, without prejudice to existing obligations with regard to certain items concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The supply or sale, directly or indirectly, to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of equipment which might be used for internal repression or terrorism such as that set out in the Annex hereto shall be prohibited, except under the conditions laid down therein. The Annex shall not include items specially designed or modified for military use already subject to the arms embargo established on the basis of Common Positions 96/184/CFSP ⁽²⁾ and 98/240/CFSP.

Article 2

As laid down in Article 3 of Common Position 98/240/CFSP, the following shall be prohibited:

- (a) the provision and/or use of government and/or other official financial support, insurance and/or guarantees in respect of new export credit for trade with or investment in the Republic of Serbia or in relation to the renewal or extension of existing export credit, if the execution of the contract or transaction for which the export credit has been provided has not yet been started;
- (b) the provision or use of government and/or other official financing for privatisations in the Republic of Serbia in respect of which no legally binding commitments have been entered into so far.

Article 3

The participation, knowingly and intentionally, in related activities the object or effect of which is, directly or indirectly, to promote the transactions or activities referred to in Articles 1 and 2 shall also be prohibited.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 95, 27. 3. 1998, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 58, 7. 3. 1996, p. 1.

Article 4

The Council shall adopt by qualified majority amendments to the list set out in the Annex on the basis of a proposal from the Commission in conformity with Article 1.

Article 5

Each Member State shall determine the sanctions to be imposed where the provisions of this Regulation are infringed.

Article 6

The Commission and the Member States shall, insofar as they are not otherwise obliged to do so, inform each other of the measures taken under this Regulation and supply each other with other relevant information at their disposal in connection with this Regulation, such as breaches and enforcement problems, judgments handed

down by national courts or decisions of relevant international fora.

Article 7

This Regulation shall apply:

- within the territory of the Community including its airspace,
- on board any aircraft or any vessel under the jurisdiction of a Member State,
- to any person elsewhere who is a national of a Member State,
- to any body which is incorporated or constituted under the law of a Member State.

Article 8

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of 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 Luxembourg, 27 April 1998.

For the Council

The President

R. COOK

ANNEX

EQUIPMENT FOR INTERNAL REPRESSION OR TERRORISM, ENVISAGED BY ARTICLE 1

(The following list does not include items which have been specially designed or modified for military use and are covered by the arms embargo established on the basis of common positions 96/184/CFSP and 98/240/CFSP)

Helmets providing ballistic protection, anti-riots helmets, anti-riots shields and ballistic shields and specially designed components therefor.

Specially designed fingerprint equipment.

Power controlled searchlights.

Construction equipment provided with ballistic protection.

Hunting knives.

Specially designed production equipment to make shotguns.

Ammunition hand-loading equipment.

Communications intercept devices.

Solid-state optical detectors.

Image-intensifier tube.

Telescopic weapon sights.

Smooth bore weapons and related ammunition, other than those specially designed for military use, and specially designed components therefor;

except: (1) signal pistols;

(2) air or cartridge powered guns designed as industrial tools or humane animal stunners.

Simulators for training in the use of firearms and specially designed or modified components and accessories therefor.

Bombs and grenades, other than those specially designed for military use, and specially designed components therefor.

Body armour, other than those manufactured to military standards or specifications, and specially designed components therefor.

All-wheel-drive utility vehicles capable of off road use that have been manufactured or fitted with ballistic protection, and profiled armour for such vehicles.

Water cannon and specially designed or modified components therefor.

Vehicles equipped with water cannon.

Vehicles specially designed or modified to be electrified to repel boarders and components therefor specially designed or modified for that purpose.

Acoustic devices represented by the manufacturer or supplier as suitable for riot-control purposes, and specially designed components therefor.

Leg-irons, gangchains, shackles and electric-shock belts, specially designed for restraining human beings;

except: handcuffs for which the maximum overall dimension including chain does not exceed 240 mm when locked.

Portable devices designed or modified for the purpose of riot control or self-protection by the administration of an incapacitating substance (such as tear gas or pepper sprays), and specially designed components therefor.

Portable devices designed or modified for the purpose of riot control or self-protection by the administration of an electric shock (including electric-shock batons, electric shock shields, stun guns and electric shock dart guns (tasers)) and components therefor specially designed or modified for that purpose.

Electronic equipment capable of detecting concealed explosives and specially designed components therefor;
except: TV or X-rayons inspection equipment.

Electronic jamming equipment specially designed to prevent the detonation by radio remote control of improvised devices and specially designed components therefor.

Equipment and devices specially designed to initiate explosions by electrical or non-electrical means, including firing sets, detonators, igniters, boosters and detonating cord, and specially designed components therefor;

except: those specially designed for a specific commercial use consisting of the actuation or operation by explosive means of other equipment or devices the function of which is not the creation of explosions (e.g., car air bag inflaters, electri-surge arresters of fire sprinkler actuators)(¹).

Equipment and devices designed for explosive ordnance disposal;

except: (1) bomb blankets;

(2) containers designed for holding objects known on be, or suspected of being improvised explosive devices.

Linear cutting explosive charges (¹).

Explosives and related substances as follows (¹):

- amatol,
- nitrocellulose (containing more than 12,5 % nitrogen),
- nitroglycol,
- pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN),
- picryl chloride,
- trinitrophenylmethylnitramine (tetryl),
- 2, 4, 6-trinitrotoluene (TNT).

Night vision and thermal imaging equipment and image intensifier tubes or solid state sensors therefor.

Software specially designed and technology required for all listed items.

(¹) When they have obtained conclusive evidence that the end-use of the items under this indent is not for internal repression or terrorism and in accordance with Article 4 of the Regulation the competent authorities of the Member States may authorise the sale or supply of these items to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 927/98
of 30 April 1998
establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain
fruit and vegetables

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

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

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

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

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

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

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

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 337, 24. 12. 1994, p. 66.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 325, 14. 12. 1996, p. 5.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 387, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 22, 31. 1. 1995, p. 1.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 30 April 1998 establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

(ECU/100 kg)

CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0702 00 00	212	115,9
	624	188,3
	999	152,1
0707 00 05	052	109,7
	999	109,7
0709 90 70	052	81,2
	999	81,2
0805 10 10, 0805 10 30, 0805 10 50	052	38,6
	204	36,2
	212	58,5
	600	44,7
	624	45,3
	999	44,7
	0805 30 10	388
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	600	83,0
	999	74,9
	060	43,8
	388	86,4
	400	93,3
	404	100,8
	508	68,4
	512	84,3
	524	76,6
	528	81,9
	720	138,0
	804	103,7
	999	87,7

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

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 928/98

of 30 April 1998

fixing the corrective amount applicable to the refund on cereals

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organization of the market in cereals⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 923/96⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 13 (8) thereof,

Whereas Article 13 (8) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 provides that the export refund applicable to cereals on the day on which application for an export licence is made must be applied on request to exports to be effected during the period of validity of the export licence; whereas, in this case, a corrective amount may be applied to the refund;

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 of 29 June 1995 laying down certain detailed rules under Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 on the granting of export refunds on cereals and the cereals and the measures to be taken in the event of disturbance on the market for cereals⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2052/97⁽⁴⁾, allows for the fixing of a corrective amount for the products listed in Article 1 (1) (c) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92; whereas that corrective amount must be calculated taking account of the factors referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1501/95;

Whereas the world market situation or the specific requirements of certain markets may make it necessary to vary the corrective amount according to destination;

Whereas the corrective amount must be fixed at the same time as the refund and according to the same procedure; whereas it may be altered in the period between fixings;

Whereas the representative market rates defined in Article 1 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 150/95⁽⁶⁾, are used to convert amounts expressed in third country currencies and are used as the basis for determining the agricultural conversion rates of the Member States' currencies; whereas detailed rules on the application and determination of these conversions were set by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1068/93⁽⁷⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1482/96⁽⁸⁾;

Whereas it follows from applying the provisions set out above that the corrective amount must be as set out in the Annex hereto;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The corrective amount referred to in Article 1 (1) (a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 which is applicable to export refunds fixed in advance in respect of malt shall be as set out in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 147, 30. 6. 1995, p. 7.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 287, 21. 10. 1997, p. 14.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 387, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 22, 31. 1. 1995, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 108, 1. 5. 1993, p. 106.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 188, 27. 7. 1996, p. 22.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 30 April 1998 fixing the corrective amount applicable to the refund on cereals

(ECU/tonne)

Product code	Destination ⁽¹⁾	Current 5	1st period 6	2nd period 7	3rd period 8	4th period 9	5th period 10	6th period 11
1001 10 00 9200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1001 10 00 9400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1001 90 91 9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1001 90 99 9000	01	0	0	—5,00	—5,00	—5,00	—	—
1002 00 00 9000	01	0	0	—5,00	—5,00	—5,00	—	—
1003 00 10 9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1003 00 90 9000	01	0	—15,00	—15,00	—15,00	—15,00	—	—
1004 00 00 9200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1004 00 00 9400	01	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
1005 10 90 9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1005 90 00 9000	01	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
1007 00 90 9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1008 20 00 9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1101 00 11 9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1101 00 15 9100	01	0	0	—7,00	—7,00	—7,00	—	—
1101 00 15 9130	01	0	0	—7,00	—7,00	—7,00	—	—
1101 00 15 9150	01	0	0	—7,00	—7,00	—7,00	—	—
1101 00 15 9170	01	0	0	—7,00	—7,00	—7,00	—	—
1101 00 15 9180	01	0	0	—7,00	—7,00	—7,00	—	—
1101 00 15 9190	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1101 00 90 9000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1102 10 00 9500	01	0	0	—7,00	—7,00	—7,00	—	—
1102 10 00 9700	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1102 10 00 9900	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103 11 10 9200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103 11 10 9400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103 11 10 9900	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1103 11 90 9200	01	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
1103 11 90 9800	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

⁽¹⁾ The destinations are identified as follows:
01 all third countries.

NB: The zones are those defined in amended Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2145/92 (OJ L 214, 30. 7. 1992, p. 20).

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 929/98
of 30 April 1998
fixing the import duties in the cereals sector

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organization of the market in cereals⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 923/96⁽²⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 of 28 June 1996 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 as regards import duties in the cereals sector⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2092/97⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 2 (1) thereof,

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 provides that the rates of duty in the Common Customs Tariff are to be charged on import of the products referred to in Article 1 of that Regulation; whereas, however, in the case of the products referred to in paragraph 2 of that Article, the import duty is to be equal to the intervention price valid for such products on importation and increased by 55 %, minus the cif import price applicable to the consignment in question;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 10 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, the cif import prices are calculated on the basis of the representative prices for the product in question on the world market;

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 lays down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 as regards import duties in the cereals sector;

Whereas the import duties are applicable until new duties are fixed and enter into force; whereas they also remain in force in cases where no quotation is available for the reference exchange referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 during the two weeks preceding the next periodical fixing;

Whereas, in order to allow the import duty system to function normally, the representative market rates recorded during a reference period should be used for calculating the duties;

Whereas application of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 results in import duties being fixed as set out in the Annex to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The import duties in the cereals sector referred to in Article 10 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 shall be those fixed in Annex I to this Regulation on the basis of the information given in Annex II.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 161, 29. 6. 1996, p. 125.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 292, 25. 10. 1997, p. 10.

ANNEX I

Import duties for the products listed in Article 10 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92

CN code	Description	Import duty by land inland waterway or sea from Mediterranean, the Black Sea or Baltic Sea ports (ECU/tonne)	Import duty by air or by sea from other ports ⁽²⁾ (ECU/tonne)
1001 10 00	Durum wheat ⁽¹⁾	0,60	0,00
1001 90 91	Common wheat seed	49,13	39,13
1001 90 99	Common high quality wheat other than for sowing ⁽³⁾	49,13	39,13
	medium quality	74,59	64,59
	low quality	88,14	78,14
1002 00 00	Rye	99,04	89,04
1003 00 10	Barley, seed	99,04	89,04
1003 00 90	Barley, other ⁽³⁾	99,04	89,04
1005 10 90	Maize seed other than hybrid	95,25	85,25
1005 90 00	Maize other than seed ⁽³⁾	95,25	85,25
1007 00 90	Grain sorghum other than hybrids for sowing	99,04	89,04

⁽¹⁾ In the case of durum wheat not meeting the minimum quality requirements referred to in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1249/96, the duty applicable is that fixed for low-quality common wheat.

⁽²⁾ For goods arriving in the Community via the Atlantic Ocean or via the Suez Canal (Article 2 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96), the importer may benefit from a reduction in the duty of:

— ECU 3 per tonne, where the port of unloading is on the Mediterranean Sea, or

— ECU 2 per tonne, where the port of unloading is in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Finland or the Atlantic Coasts of the Iberian Peninsula.

⁽³⁾ The importer may benefit from a flat-rate reduction of ECU 14 or 8 per tonne, where the conditions laid down in Article 2 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 are met.

ANNEX II

Factors for calculating duties

(period from 16 April 1998 to 29 April 1998)

1. Averages over the two-week period preceding the day of fixing:

Exchange quotations	Minneapolis	Kansas-City	Chicago	Chicago	Minneapolis	Minneapolis
Product (% proteins at 12 % humidity)	HRS2. 14 %	HRW2. 11,5 %	SRW2	YC3	HAD2	US barley 2
Quotation (ECU/tonne)	122,50	106,69	99,53	88,93	183,82 (¹)	85,86 (¹)
Gulf premium (ECU/tonne)	—	12,72	6,33	9,81	—	—
Great Lakes premium (ECU/tonne)	13,27	—	—	—	—	—

(¹) Fob Duluth.

2. Freight/cost: Gulf of Mexico — Rotterdam: ECU 11,60 per tonne; Great Lakes — Rotterdam: ECU 20,69 per tonne.

3. Subsidy within the meaning of the third paragraph of Article 4 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96: ECU 0,00 per tonne (HRW2)
: ECU 0,00 per tonne (SRW2).

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 930/98
of 30 April 1998
fixing the import duties in the rice sector

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 of 22 December 1995 on the common organization of the market in rice ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 192/98 ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 of 29 July 1996 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 as regards import duties in the rice sector ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1403/97 ⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 4 (1) thereof,

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

Whereas, pursuant to Article 12 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95, the cif import prices are calculated on the basis of the representative prices for the product in question on the world market or on the Community import market for the product;

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 lays down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 as regards import duties in the rice sector;

Whereas the import duties are applicable until new duties are fixed and enter into force; whereas they also remain in force in cases where no quotation is available from the source referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 during the two weeks preceding the next periodical fixing;

Whereas, in order to allow the import duty system to function normally, the market rates recorded during a reference period should be used for calculating the duties;

Whereas application of Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 results in import duties being fixed as set out in the Annexes to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

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

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 329, 30. 12. 1995, p. 18.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 20, 27. 1. 1998, p. 16.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 189, 30. 7. 1996, p. 71.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 194, 23. 7. 1997, p. 2.

ANNEX I

to the Commission Regulation of 30 April 1998 fixing the import duties on rice and broken rice

(ECU/tonne)

CN code	Duties ⁽¹⁾			
	Third countries (except ACP and Bangladesh) ⁽²⁾ ⁽⁷⁾	ACP Bangladesh ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾	Basmati India and Pakistan ⁽⁵⁾	Egypt ⁽⁶⁾
1006 10 21	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 10 23	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 10 25	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 10 27	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 10 92	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 10 94	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 10 96	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 10 98	(7)	130,91		202,88
1006 20 11	(7)	164,91		253,88
1006 20 13	(7)	164,91		253,88
1006 20 15	(7)	164,91		253,88
1006 20 17	264,47	127,90	14,47	198,35
1006 20 92	(7)	164,91		253,88
1006 20 94	(7)	164,91		253,88
1006 20 96	(7)	164,91		253,88
1006 20 98	264,47	127,90	14,47	198,35
1006 30 21	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 23	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 25	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 27	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 42	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 44	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 46	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 48	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 61	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 63	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 65	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 67	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 92	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 94	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 96	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 30 98	(7)	251,59		399,75
1006 40 00	(7)	78,38		123,00

⁽¹⁾ Subject to the application of the provisions of Articles 12 and 13 of amended Council Regulation (EEC) No 715/90 (OJ L 84, 30. 3. 1990, p. 85).

⁽²⁾ In accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 715/90, the duties are not applied to products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and imported directly into the overseas department of Réunion.

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

⁽⁴⁾ The duty on imports of rice not including broken rice (CN code 1006 40 00), originating in Bangladesh is applicable under the arrangements laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No 3491/90 (OJ L 337, 4. 12. 1990, p. 1) and amended Commission Regulation (EEC) No 862/91 (OJ L 88, 9. 4. 1991, p. 7).

⁽⁵⁾ No import duty applies to products originating in the OCT pursuant to Article 101 (1) of amended Council Decision 91/482/EEC (OJ L 263, 19. 9. 1991, p. 1).

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

⁽⁷⁾ Duties fixed in the Common Customs Tariff.

⁽⁸⁾ The duty on imports of rice originating in and coming from Egypt is applicable under the arrangements laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 2184/96 (OJ L 292, 15. 11. 1996, p. 1) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 196/97 (OJ L 31, 1. 2. 1997, p. 53).

ANNEX II

Calculation of import duties for rice

	Paddy	Indica rice		Japonica rice		Broken rice
		Husked	Milled	Husked	Milled	
1. Import duty (ECU/tonne)	(¹)	264,47	533,00	338,50	533,00	(¹)
2. Elements of calculation:						
(a) Arag cif price (ECU/tonne)	—	342,94	332,68	286,94	332,48	—
(b) fob price (ECU/tonne)	—	—	—	259,61	305,15	—
(c) Sea freight (ECU/tonne)	—	—	—	27,33	27,33	—
(d) Source	—	USDA	Operators	Operators	Operators	—

(¹) Duties fixed in the Common Customs Tariff.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 931/98

of 30 April 1998

opening imports of a quantity of 100 000 tonnes of quality common wheat in the framework of the tariff quota of 300 000 tonnes of quality wheat open by Regulation (EC) No 529/97

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1095/96 of 18 June 1996 on the implementation of the concessions set out in Schedule CXL drawn up in the wake of the conclusion of the GATT XXIV.6 negotiations⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 529/97 of 21 March 1997 opening and administering a tariff quota of 300 000 tonnes of quality wheat and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1854/94⁽²⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 850/97⁽³⁾, lays down provisions governing imports under that quota; whereas, in view of the situation on the Community market for wheat, import licence applications should be called for under that quota for a given period;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Import licence applications may be submitted for quality common wheat covered by CN code 1001 90 99 meeting the criteria laid down in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 529/97, from the date of entry into force of this Regulation until the end of the 30th day thereafter.
2. A total of 100 000 tonnes of common wheat may be imported in accordance with this Article.
3. Regulation (EC) No 529/97 shall apply to such imports.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 146, 20. 6. 1996, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 82, 22. 3. 1997, p. 44.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 122, 14. 5. 1997, p. 10.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 932/98
of 30 April 1998
fixing the agricultural conversion rates

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92 of 28 December 1992 on the unit of account and the conversion rates to be applied for the purposes of the common agricultural policy ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 150/95 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 3 (1) thereof,

Whereas the agricultural conversion rates were fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 754/98 ⁽³⁾;

Whereas Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92 provides that, subject to confirmation periods being triggered, the agricultural conversion rate for a currency is to be adjusted where the monetary gap between it and the representative market rate exceeds certain levels;

Whereas the representative market rates are determined on the basis of basic reference periods or, where applicable, confirmation periods, established in accordance with Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1068/93 of 30 April 1993 on detailed rules for determining and applying the agricultural conversion rates ⁽⁴⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1482/96 ⁽⁵⁾; whereas paragraph 2 of that Article provides that, in cases where the absolute value of the difference between the monetary gaps in two Member States, calculated from the average of the ecu rates for three consecutive quotation days, exceeds six points, the representative market rates are to be adjusted on the basis of the three quotation days in question;

Whereas, as a consequence of the exchange rates recorded from 23 April to 2 May 1998, it is necessary to fix a new agricultural conversion rate for the pound sterling;

Whereas Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1068/93 provides that an agricultural conversion rate fixed in advance is to be adjusted if the gap between that rate and the agricultural conversion rate in force at the time of the operative event applicable for the amount concerned exceeds four points; whereas, in that event, the agricultural conversion rate fixed in advance is brought more closely into line with the rate in force, up to the level of a gap of four points with that rate; whereas the rate which replaces the agricultural conversion rate fixed in advance should be specified,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The agricultural conversion rates are fixed in Annex I hereto.

Article 2

In the case referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1068/93, the agricultural conversion rate fixed in advance shall be replaced by the ecu rate for the currency concerned, shown in Annex II:

- Table A, where the latter rate is higher than the rate fixed in advance,
- Table B, where the latter rate is lower than the rate fixed in advance.

Article 3

Regulation (EC) No 754/98 is hereby repealed.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on 3 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 387, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 22, 31. 1. 1995, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 103, 3. 4. 1998, p. 26.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 108, 1. 5. 1993, p. 106.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 188, 27. 7. 1996, p. 22.

ANNEX I

Agricultural conversion rates

ECU 1 =	40,9321	Belgian and Luxembourg francs
	7,56225	Danish kroner
	1,98391	German marks
	349,703	Greek drachmas
	203,183	Portuguese escudos
	6,68769	French francs
	6,02811	Finnish marks
	2,23593	Dutch guilders
	0,796521	Irish punt
1 973,93		Italian lire
	13,9576	Austrian schillings
	168,336	Spanish pesetas
	8,79309	Swedish kroner
	0,677353	Pound sterling

ANNEX II

Agricultural conversion rates fixed in advance and adjusted

Table A			Table B		
ECU 1 =	39,3578	Belgian and Luxembourg francs	ECU 1 =	42,6376	Belgian and Luxembourg francs
	7,27139	Danish kroner		7,87734	Danish kroner
	1,90761	German marks		2,06657	German marks
	336,253	Greek drachmas		364,274	Greek drachmas
	195,368	Portuguese escudos		211,649	Portuguese escudos
	6,43047	French francs		6,96634	French francs
	5,79626	Finnish marks		6,27928	Finnish marks
	2,14993	Dutch guilders		2,32909	Dutch guilders
	0,765886	Irish punt		0,829709	Irish punt
1 898,01		Italian lire	2 056,18		Italian lire
	13,4208	Austrian schillings		14,5392	Austrian schillings
	161,862	Spanish pesetas		175,350	Spanish pesetas
	8,45489	Swedish kroner		9,15947	Swedish kroner
	0,651301	Pound sterling		0,705576	Pound sterling

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 933/98
of 30 April 1998
concerning tenders notified in response to the invitation to tender for the export
of oats issued in Regulation (EC) No 1773/97

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organization of the market in cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 923/96 ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 of 29 June 1995 laying down certain detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 on the granting of export refunds on cereals and the measures to be taken in the event of disturbance on the market for cereals ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2052/97 ⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1773/97 of 12 September 1997 on a special intervention measure for cereals in Finland and Sweden ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 837/98 ⁽⁶⁾, and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Whereas an invitation to tender for the refund for the export of oats produced in Finland and Sweden for export from Finland or Sweden to all third countries was opened pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1773/97;

Whereas Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1773/97 provides that the Commission may, on the basis of the tenders notified, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, decide to make no award;

Whereas on the basis of the criteria laid down in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 a maximum refund should not be fixed;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

No action shall be taken on the tenders notified from 24 to 30 April 1998 in response to the invitation to tender for the refund for the export of oats issued in Regulation (EC) No 1773/97.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 147, 30. 6. 1995, p. 7.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 287, 21. 10. 1997, p. 14.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 250, 13. 9. 1997, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 119, 22. 4. 1998, p. 14.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 934/98**of 30 April 1998****fixing the maximum reduction in the duty on maize imported in connection
with the invitation to tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 2506/97**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 923/96 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 12(1) thereof,

Whereas an invitation to tender for the maximum reduction in the duty on maize imported into Portugal was opened pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2506/97 ⁽³⁾;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 5 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1839/95 ⁽⁴⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1963/95 ⁽⁵⁾, the Commission, acting under the procedure laid down in Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, may decide to fix maximum reduction in the import duty; whereas in fixing this maximum the criteria provided for in Articles 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1839/95 must be taken into account; whereas a contract is awarded to

any tenderer whose tender is equal to or less than the maximum reduction in the duty;

Whereas the application of the abovementioned criteria to the current market situation for the cereal in question results in the maximum reduction in the import duty being fixed at the amount specified in Article 1;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For tenders notified from 24 to 30 April 1998, pursuant to the invitation to tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 2506/97, the maximum reduction in the duty on maize imported shall be ECU 54,59 per tonne and be valid for a total maximum quantity of 42 000 tonnes.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 345, 16. 12. 1997, p. 28.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 177, 28. 7. 1995, p. 4.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 189, 10. 8. 1995, p. 22.

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 935/98
of 30 April 1998**

**fixing the maximum export refund on barley in connection with the invitation to
tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 1337/97**

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 923/96 ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 of 29 June 1995 laying down certain detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 on the granting of export refunds on cereals and the measures to be taken in the event of disturbance on the market for cereals ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2052/97 ⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Whereas an invitation to tender for the refund and/or the tax for the export of barley to all third countries was opened pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1337/97 ⁽⁵⁾;

Whereas Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 provides that the Commission may, on the basis of the tenders notified, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, decide to fix a maximum export refund taking account of the criteria referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No

1501/95; whereas in that case a contract is awarded to any tenderer whose bid is equal to or lower than the maximum refund, as well as to any tenderer whose bid relates to an export tax;

Whereas the application of the abovementioned criteria to the current market situation for the cereal in question results in the maximum export refund being fixed at the amount specified in Article 1;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For tenders notified from 24 to 30 April 1998, pursuant to the invitation to tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 1337/97, the maximum refund on exportation of barley shall be ECU 53,75 per tonne.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 147, 30. 6. 1995, p. 7.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 287, 21. 10. 1997, p. 14.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 184, 12. 7. 1997, p. 1.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 936/98**of 30 April 1998****fixing the maximum export refund on common wheat in connection with the invitation to tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 1339/97**

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 923/96 ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 of 29 June 1995 laying down certain detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 on the granting of export refunds on cereals and the measures to be taken in the event of disturbance on the market for cereals ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2052/97 ⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Whereas an invitation to tender for the refund and/or the tax for the export of common wheat to all third countries was opened pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1339/97 ⁽⁵⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 507/98 ⁽⁶⁾;

Whereas Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 provides that the Commission may, on the basis of the tenders notified, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, decide to fix a maximum export refund taking account of the criteria referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No

1501/95; whereas in that case a contract is awarded to any tenderer whose bid is equal to or lower than the maximum refund, as well as to any tenderer whose bid relates to an export tax;

Whereas the application of the abovementioned criteria to the current market situation for the cereal in question results in the maximum export refund being fixed at the amount specified in Article 1;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For tenders notified from 24 to 30 April 1998, pursuant to the invitation to tender issued in Regulation (EC) No 1339/97, the maximum refund on exportation of common wheat shall be ECU 21,97 per tonne.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 May 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 147, 30. 6. 1995, p. 7.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 287, 21. 10. 1997, p. 14.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 184, 12. 7. 1997, p. 7.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 63, 4. 3. 1998, p. 20.

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

of 23 April 1998

concerning banking charges for conversion to the euro

(98/286/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 155 thereof,

— for the conversion of accounts from the national currency unit to the euro unit at the end of the transitional period,

— a different fee for services denominated in the euro unit from that charged for otherwise identical services denominated in the national currency unit;

1. Whereas the euro will become the currency of the participating Member States as from 1 January 1999; whereas the euro will be substituted for the national currencies of the participating Member States at the conversion rates; whereas during a transitional period the euro will exist in different denominations; whereas the national currency units will be sub-units of the euro according to the conversion rates; whereas according to Article 4(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro ⁽¹⁾, the conversion rates are to be used for conversions either way between the euro unit and the national currency units; whereas the draft Council Regulation on the introduction of the euro ⁽²⁾ imposes certain obligations to convert;

2. Whereas the Commission considers that banks are not legally entitled to charge:

— for the conversion of incoming payments denominated in the euro unit or in the national currency unit during the transitional period,

3. Whereas the Commission considers that, in order to facilitate the smooth introduction of the euro, banks should go beyond the minimum required by law by providing without charge the conversion of accounts from the national currency unit to the euro and during the transitional period, by providing without charge the conversion of outgoing payments from the national currency unit to the euro unit and vice versa during the transitional period, and by providing for the exchange without charge to their customers of 'household amounts' of the national banknotes and coin for euro banknotes and coin during the final period;

4. Whereas for reasons of clarity and completeness the legal requirements as interpreted by the Commission as well as the recommendations of the Commission should be presented together; whereas the term 'standard of good practice' is used to signify both the legally required and the recommended practice;

5. Whereas the standard of good practice should not include conversion without charge of accounts from the euro denomination into the national denomination, as this is not necessary for the introduction of the euro, nor should it include the exchange of euro-area national banknotes for other euro-area national

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 162, 19. 6. 1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 236, 2. 8. 1997, p. 8.

banknotes without charge, as the need for such exchange is not affected by the introduction of the euro; whereas the standard of good practice should cover the transparency of any charges for such conversions;

6. Whereas the standard of good practice should not include the exchange of national banknotes and coin other than in household amounts; whereas banks and retailers should negotiate any charges for the withdrawal from retailers of national banknotes and coin and for the delivery to retailers of euro banknotes and coin, taking into account arrangements made by the competent authorities at national level;

7. Whereas for all conversions between any national currency unit and the euro unit and vice versa, and for all exchanges of banknotes and coin of participating Member States, banks should show clearly the application of the conversion rates in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1103/97; whereas the use of the conversion rate and any charges should be transparent; whereas the standard of good practice in so far as it concerns transparency of charges should be implemented by banks in advance of 1 January 1999, wherever possible, in order to reduce the risk that consumers may wrongly attribute already existing charges to the introduction of the euro;

8. Whereas banks which implement the standard of good practice should publicise this, to demonstrate that they comply with the standard, and all banks should in any event inform their customers in advance of 1 January 1999 whether they apply the standard of good practice and, if not, for which conversions they intend to charge;

9. Whereas the Commission intends to monitor the application of the standard of good practice; whereas such monitoring activity is addressed in Recommendation 98/288/EC on dialogue, monitoring and information to facilitate the transition to the euro⁽¹⁾; whereas the dialogue provided for in that Recommendation may include discussions on the implementation and monitoring of the standard of good practice; whereas the dialogue could also address aspects of charging for conversion which could extend beyond the scope of the standard of good practice as laid down by this Recommendation;

10. Whereas consumers without a bank account may need special consideration in relation to the exchange of banknotes and coin denominated in the national currency for banknotes and coin denominated in

euro, during the final period to be determined by local conditions within each Member State;

11. Whereas the issue of charging for conversion to the euro has been discussed at the Round Table in May 1997; whereas an expert group has been established to examine the issue, involving all sectors concerned, and its report has been published⁽²⁾; whereas the conclusions of the experts' report have been accepted by the Commission in its Communication 'Update on practical aspects of the introduction of the euro' adopted on 11 February 1998⁽³⁾ and discussed at the Round Table in February 1998,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purpose of this Recommendation, the following definitions apply:

- (a) 'Banks' are credit institutions as defined in Council Directive 77/780/EEC⁽⁴⁾, and any other financial institutions as defined in Article 4(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 3604/93⁽⁵⁾, whose business is to carry out activities related to the conversion of payments and accounts and the exchange of notes and coin, and bureaux de change and post offices;
- (b) 'national currency unit' is the unit of the currency of a participating Member State, as that unit is defined on the day before the start of the third stage of economic and monetary union; 'the national currency unit' in this Recommendation refers to the national currency unit of the Member State where the bank making the conversion is located;
- (c) 'participating Member States' are those Member States which adopt the single currency in accordance with the Treaty;
- (d) 'conversion' is the change of denomination of a monetary amount from the national currency unit to the euro unit and vice versa at the conversion rate, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1103/97;
- (e) 'euro unit' is the currency unit of the euro as referred to in the second sentence of Article 2 of the draft Council Regulation on the introduction of the euro;

⁽²⁾ Report of the expert group on banking charges for conversion to the euro, Euro Paper No 14.

⁽³⁾ COM(1998) 61 final.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 322, 17. 12. 1977, p. 30.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 332, 31. 12. 1993, p. 4.

⁽¹⁾ See page 29 of this Official Journal.

- (f) 'transitional period' is the period beginning on 1 January 1999 and ending on 31 December 2001;
- (g) 'final period' is the period beginning on 1 January 2002 and ending on 30 June 2002 at the latest, which period may vary in length according to participating Member State, under the terms of the draft Council Regulation on the introduction of the euro;
- (h) 'conversion rate' is the irrevocably fixed rate adopted for the currency of each participating Member State by the Council according to the first sentence of Article 109l(4) of the Treaty;
- (i) 'incoming payments' are payments received for crediting to accounts of beneficiaries;
- (j) 'outgoing payments' are payments made by debiting accounts of originators;
- (k) 'accounts' are all types of accounts with banks (as defined in (a)) and include deposit accounts, current accounts, mortgage accounts and securities accounts.

Article 2

Standard of good practice

Banks should implement, in accordance with Article 4, a standard of good practice on conversion without charge, which should include:

- (a) *Practice that the Commission considers to be legally required:*
 - (i) the conversion without charge of incoming payments from the national currency unit to the euro unit and vice versa during the transitional period;
 - (ii) the conversion without charge of accounts from the national currency unit to the euro unit at the end of the transitional period;
 - (iii) the charging for services denominated in the euro unit at fees no different from those for identical services denominated in the national currency unit.
- (b) *Other recommended practice:*
 - (i) the conversion without charge of outgoing payments from the national currency unit to the euro unit and vice versa during the transitional period;
 - (ii) the conversion without charge of accounts from the national currency unit to the euro unit during the transitional period;
 - (iii) the exchange without charge to their customers (namely the account holders) of 'household amounts' of the national banknotes and coin for euro banknotes and coin during the final period. Banks should quantify 'household amounts' by volume and frequency in a transparent manner.

Article 3

Transparency

1. For all conversions between any national currency unit and the euro unit and vice versa, and for all exchanges of banknotes and coin of participating Member States, banks should show clearly the application of the conversion rates in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1103/97, and should identify separately from the conversion rate any charges for any kind whatever which have been applied.
2. Where banks charge for conversions and exchanges which are not included in Article 2 or where banks do not implement one or more of the provisions of Article 2(b), they should provide clear and transparent information concerning those conversion charges or exchange charges by providing their customers with:
 - (a) prior (*ex ante*) written information on any conversion charges or exchange charges which they propose to apply, and
 - (b) specific information (*ex post*) on any conversion charges or exchange charges which have been applied, on bank and cardholder statements and any other means used for communicating with the customer. This information should demonstrate clearly to their customers the application of the conversion rates in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1103/97, with any conversion charges or exchange charges being identified separately from the conversion rate and from any other charges of any kind whatever which are applied.

Article 4

Implementation

1. Banks should implement the standard of good practice by 1 January 1999 at the latest, and earlier in the case of Article 3 if this is technically feasible.
2. Banks should inform their customers as soon as possible before 1 January 1999 about whether and to what extent they will implement the standard of good practice.
3. Implementation of the standard of good practice should be publicised by any method which demonstrates that banks comply with the standard, such as:
 - (a) professional codes of conduct;
 - (b) provisions within a national changeover plan;
 - (c) displaying a 'conversion symbol' which demonstrates that banks comply with the standard of good practice. A scheme to confer the right to display a conversion symbol should be worked out at national level by the parties concerned, if and when it is considered appropriate.

*Article 5***Other recommended measures**

The competent authorities of the Member States are invited to consider how best to facilitate the exchange, free of charge, of banknotes and coin denominated in the national currency unit in reasonable amounts and at reasonable frequencies, for banknotes and coin denominated in the euro unit during the final period, in the case of consumers having no bank account.

*Article 6***Final provision**

Member States are invited to support the implementation of this Recommendation.

*Article 7***Addressees**

This Recommendation is addressed to the Member States and to banks and their associations.

Done at Brussels, 23 April 1998.

For the Commission

Yves-Thibault DE SILGUY

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
of 23 April 1998
concerning dual display of prices and other monetary amounts

(98/287/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 155 thereof,

dual displays are nevertheless one of the many communication instruments that could be used as part of an overall communications strategy to facilitate the switchover to the euro;

1. Whereas according to the draft Council Regulation on the introduction of the euro⁽¹⁾, the euro will become the currency of the participating Member States as from 1 January 1999; whereas the euro will be substituted for the national currencies of the participating Member States at the conversion rates; whereas during a transitional period the euro will exist in different denominations; whereas the national currency units will be sub-units of the euro according to the conversion rates; whereas according to Article 4(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97⁽²⁾ of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro the conversion rates shall be used for conversions either way between the euro unit and the national currency units;
2. Whereas the issue of dual display of prices and other monetary amounts was discussed at the first Round Table of May 1997 on the practical aspects of the introduction of the euro; whereas as a follow-up to this Round Table, expert consultative groups were set up by the Commission to examine the issues of dual display and of adjustment to new prices and values in euro; whereas the reports of these expert consultative groups have been published⁽³⁾, and the conclusions, together with the preliminary conclusions of the Commission presented in the Commission communication 'Update on the practical aspects of the introduction of the euro' adopted on 11 February 1998⁽⁴⁾; whereas this approach was discussed at the Round Table of 26 February 1998;
3. Whereas on the basis of those conclusions the Commission is of the view that the use of dual displays will greatly facilitate the transition to the euro for consumers, retailers and providers of services, and that in particular dual displays will be an important instrument of consumer education and protection; whereas
4. Whereas the Commission considers that legislation at Community level on the provision of dual displays would not be the best way of ensuring that dual displays respond to the needs of consumers and at the same time minimise the costs of the transition to the euro; whereas the Commission has concluded nevertheless that where dual displays are provided, adherence to a standard of good practice would improve certainty and clarity for all parties concerned; whereas this standard of good practice should cover the following: clear indication by retailers on whether they are prepared to accept payment in the euro unit during the transitional period; a clear distinction between, on the one hand, the unit in which the price is set and in which amounts to be paid are to be calculated and, on the other hand, the counter-value which is displayed for information purposes only; where appropriate, agreements on common formats or designs for dual displays; and the avoidance of excessive amounts of information, which may be confusing;
5. Whereas Articles 4 and 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 provide rules for the adoption and use of the conversion rates; whereas the conversion rates and rounding rules should be used when calculating the counter-values in dual displays; whereas a dual display should not place an obligation on a retailer to accept payments in euro during the transitional period;
6. Whereas there is a series of provisions concerning consumer protection and information to consumers; whereas Article 4 of Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers⁽⁵⁾ states that price displays (sale price and price per unit) should be unambiguous, easily identifiable and clearly legible; whereas the aforesaid Article 4, in the light of recital 13 of the Directive, states that, in the interests of transparency, Member States can limit the number of prices

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 236, 2. 8. 1997, p. 8.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 162, 19. 6. 1997, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Report of the expert group on the technical and cost aspects of dual displays, Euro Paper No 13; report of the expert group on acceptance of new prices and scales of value in euro, Euro Paper No 18.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(1998) 61 final.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 80, 18. 3. 1998, p. 27.

which would have to be displayed in the national currency unit and in the euro unit; whereas recital 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 states that measures other than those contained in that Regulation and in the Regulation to be adopted under the third sentence of Article 109l(4) of the Treaty should be examined to ensure a balanced changeover, in particular for consumers;

7. Whereas for reasons of clarity and completeness the legal requirements as interpreted by the Commission as well as the standard of good practice proposed by the Commission are presented together in this Recommendation; whereas this standard of good practice could serve as a minimum basis for negotiations between professionals and consumers with the objective of agreeing on standards of transparency and information provision; whereas such negotiations have already begun at national and Community level;

8. Whereas it would be desirable for dual displays on 'benchmark indicators' such as bank statements and bills from utility companies to begin early in the transitional period; whereas the introduction of dual displays in the retail sector should be progressive depending on several factors: the pace at which customers wish to make the changeover, the need to educate consumers, on the nature of the retail outlet and on the types of product being sold, and on the technical implications and cost of modifying existing price and financial display systems;

9. Whereas Recommendation 98/286/EC on dialogue, monitoring and information to facilitate the transition to the euro⁽¹⁾ cover measures for the monitoring and evaluation of good practices relating to the introduction of the euro; whereas the Commission would consider legislation to ensure the respect of good practices in the case of dual display should these measures prove ineffective,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purpose of this Recommendation, the following definitions apply:

- (a) a 'dual display' of a price or other monetary amount is the simultaneous display of an amount in the national currency unit and in the euro unit;

- (b) 'participating Member States' are those Member States which adopt the single currency in accordance with the Treaty;

- (c) 'national currency unit' is the unit of the currency of a participating Member State, as that unit is defined on the day before the start of the third stage of economic and monetary union;

- (d) 'euro unit' is the currency unit of the euro as referred to in the second sentence of Article 2 of the draft Council Regulation on the introduction of the euro;

- (e) 'transitional period' is the period beginning on 1 January 1999 and ending on 31 December 2001;

- (f) 'conversion rate' is the irrevocably fixed rate adopted for the currency of each participating Member State by the Council according to the first sentence of Article 109l(4) of the Treaty.

Article 2

Standard of good practice

1. Where a dual display of prices or of other monetary amounts is provided, the following provisions must be complied with pursuant to existing legislation:

- (a) the conversion rates must be used for calculating the counter-values in dual displays;
- (b) rounding to the nearest cent must be adhered to as a minimum standard of accuracy for prices or other monetary amounts which have been converted from a national currency unit into the euro unit;
- (c) dual displays of prices and of other monetary amounts must be unambiguous, easily identifiable and clearly legible.

2. The following basic provisions should also be adhered to.

- (a) With particular regard to the clarity of dual displays:

- (i) it should be possible to distinguish between, on the one hand, the unit in which the price is set and in which amounts to be paid are to be calculated and, on the other hand, the counter-value which is displayed for information purposes only;
- (ii) dual displays of prices and other monetary amounts should not be overloaded with excessive numbers of figures. As a general rule, dual displays of prices on individual products may be limited to the final price which consumers have to pay. As a general rule, dual displays on receipts from retail outlets and on other financial statements may be limited to the total amount.
- (b) Retailers should indicate clearly whether they are prepared to accept payment in the euro unit during the transitional period.

⁽¹⁾ See page 22 of this Official Journal.

*Article 3***Implementation**

1. Dual displays should form part of an overall communications strategy designed to facilitate the switchover of consumers and employees to the euro.
2. Dual displays on benchmark indicators such as bank statements and bills from utility companies should begin early in the transitional period.
3. The introduction of dual displays in the retail sector should be progressive, and will depend on the need to facilitate the changeover of clients and consumers and the pace at which they wish to make the changeover. It will also depend on the nature of the retail outlet, on the types of product being sold, and on the technical implications and cost of modifying existing price and financial display systems.
4. Professional associations should consider the possibility of establishing common formats or designs for dual displays. They are also invited to provide small retailers with assistance in developing dual display capabilities and other communication activities.

*Article 4***Final provision**

Member States are invited to support the implementation of this Recommendation.

*Article 5***Addressees**

This Recommendation is addressed to the Member States and to all economic agents who may provide a dual display of prices or other monetary amounts.

Done at Brussels, 23 April 1998.

For the Commission

Yves-Thibault DE SILGUY

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

of 23 April 1998

on dialogue, monitoring and information to facilitate the transition to the euro

(98/288/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 155 thereof,

1. Whereas the euro will become the currency of the participating Member States as from 1 January 1999; whereas the euro will be substituted for the national currencies of the participating Member States at the conversion rates; whereas during the transitional period money-market and financial instruments, but not notes and coins, will be available in euro; whereas the national currency units will be sub-units of the euro according to the conversion rates; whereas pursuant to Article 4(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro⁽¹⁾ the conversion rates must be used for conversions either way between the euro unit and the national currency units;
2. Whereas account should be taken of the work⁽²⁾ undertaken since the Round Table of May 1997, of the communications of the Commission which have resulted from that work, and of the discussions at the Round Table of 26 February 1998⁽³⁾; whereas the Commission considers it necessary to recommend that measures be taken as regards dialogue between professional organisations and consumers, the monitoring of the transition to the euro, especially by the creation of observatories, and as regards training and education; whereas the European Parliament has encouraged the Commission to continue this work⁽⁴⁾;
3. Whereas Recommendations 98/286/EC concerning banking charges for conversion to the euro⁽⁵⁾, and 98/287/EC concerning dual displays of prices and other monetary amounts⁽⁶⁾ are supplementary to the dialogue initiated at national and Community level;
4. Whereas following the work carried out by the Committee on Commerce and Distribution and the Consumer Committee⁽⁷⁾ and the joint work carried out by these two committees, negotiations have begun at the Community level between professional organisations in the fields of distribution, tourism, small enterprises, crafts, and consumer organisations; whereas the Commission intends to continue and to intensify this dialogue;
5. Whereas it would be appropriate for Member States to set up observatories, in line with relevant national law and compatible with existing administrative structures, as centres for dialogue and monitoring for the citizen; whereas the European Parliament has urged that this approach be continued;
6. Whereas consumer contracts have to comply with the provisions of applicable legislation, including those of Council Directive 93/13/EEC of 5 April 1993 on unfair terms in consumer contracts⁽⁸⁾;
7. Whereas as far as the standards of good practice for banking charges for conversion to the euro are concerned, in addition to other arrangements set in place for monitoring the Commission intends to monitor the observance of those standards, and calls on all the parties concerned, and in particular the banking associations, to provide it with the information necessary for that purpose;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 162, 19. 6. 1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Report of the expert group on the technical and cost aspects of dual display, Euro Paper No 13; report of the expert group on banking charges for conversion to the euro, Euro Paper No 14; report of the expert group on adjusting to prices and values in euro, Euro Paper No 18; report of the expert group on euro-education, Euro Paper No 19; report of the expert group on small enterprises and the euro, Euro Paper No 21.

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission Update on the practical aspects of the introduction of the euro; COM(98) 61 final, 11 February 1998. Communication from the Commission on the information strategy for the euro; COM(98) 39 final, 6 February 1998.

⁽⁴⁾ Resolution of the European Parliament of 13 January 1998 on the euro and the consumer.

⁽⁵⁾ See page 22 of this Official Journal.

⁽⁶⁾ See page 26 of this Official Journal.

⁽⁷⁾ Committee on Commerce and Distribution 'Opinion on the key points of the introduction of the single currency', adopted 20 February 1998; Consumer Committee 'Facilitating the transition of the consumer to the euro', adopted 10 February 1998; Report of the working group on acceptance of the new prices and scales of values in euro, Euro Paper No 18.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 95, 21. 4. 1993, p. 29.

8. Whereas there should be a permanent dialogue between small and medium-sized enterprises and their business partners; whereas small enterprises in particular may face specific difficulties in their own preparations for the changeover to the euro during the transitional period; whereas it is in everyone's interest to facilitate the changeover to the euro for small enterprises; whereas one way of achieving this would be for enterprises to engage in negotiations at the appropriate level with a view to agreeing on principles that would help small enterprises to make the changeover to the euro;
9. Whereas small enterprises have difficulty in gaining access to traditional information sources, and lack information; whereas targeted information activities should be organised for small enterprises; whereas professionals and institutions, including chambers of commerce, having contact with small enterprises should keep up their awareness-raising and information efforts; whereas the Commission will continue to make available to small enterprises, in particular through the Euro-Info Centres network, practical tools tailored to their needs;
10. Whereas Member States should continue to examine the role played by the education system in informing young people and the general public; whereas Member States should exchange information and good practice in this area, for which purpose a network of national education officials has been set up; whereas it is essential that young people of school age should be able rapidly to understand and accept the euro under the most favourable conditions and adjust to the new scales of values, due regard being had in particular to their ability to pass on information within the family circle; whereas, if it is to bear fruit, action in schools must closely involve education officials, teachers and other school staff; whereas action on the education front should involve not only schools but all the different components of the education and training system; whereas young people outside the school system should be given special attention,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

Article 1

Dialogue

1. To ensure further progress in practical preparations for the changeover to the euro, national authorities are

invited to encourage consumer organisations and trade associations to keep up an interactive dialogue. The Commission will also continue to encourage such dialogue at Community level, and will invite the Member States to take into account the results.

2. As part of that dialogue, consumer organisations and trade associations are invited to negotiate and, where appropriate, to conclude agreements on standards of good practice concerning dual display and payments, and to lay down minimum standards with regard to the information to be provided.

3. Businesses should negotiate at the appropriate level with a view to defining principles that would help small enterprises to make the changeover to the euro. Such principles should aim in particular at ensuring:

- (a) that businesses give a period of notice before issuing or requesting invoices exclusively in euro in order to allow their customers, particularly where these are small enterprises, time to prepare themselves properly;
- (b) that, if a small enterprise requests its supplier to continue showing prices in national currency alongside prices in euro on invoices, the supplier accepts;
- (c) that large firms provide their subcontractors with the necessary assistance in order to help them make the changeover to the euro.

Article 2

Observatories and monitoring

1. The Member States, including where appropriate local authorities, are invited to establish suitable facilities, and preferably to set up observatories on the transition to the euro, for monitoring the introduction of the euro, and the fairness and transparency of professional practices.

2. Each observatory should involve representatives of all relevant business sectors, the public administrations concerned and members of the public, including representative bodies, particularly consumer associations.

3. Observatories should carry out the following tasks at local level: reception, guidance to sources of information, providing feedback, mediation, and assistance to citizens. On the basis of an evaluation of these practices, they should be able to transmit the benefits of their experience to the relevant national and Community instances.

4. In order to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation by banks of the standard of good practice on banking charges for conversion to the euro, and in addition to other monitoring arrangements set in place, the national and European banking associations are invited to respond forthwith to the Commission's requests for information on progress in implementing them. To allow an initial evaluation of these good practices to be carried out before the end of 1998, the national banking associations are requested to report to the Commission by 1 November 1998, through their European associations, on the way in which banks intend to implement these good practices.

5. The Member States are invited to follow closely the implementation of the standard of good practice and the information provided by banks on the subject.

Article 3

Information and training

1. In view of the specific difficulties facing small enterprises in their own preparations for the changeover to the euro and in gaining access to traditional information sources, professionals and institutions, including chambers of commerce, in contact with small enterprises should keep up their awareness-raising and information efforts by targeted activities, including consultancy and advice, and emphasising the practical preparations to be undertaken.

2. Member States are invited to involve their education and school systems as quickly as possible in the information drive on the euro, and to that end to take all the

necessary steps to raise the awareness of, to inform and train teachers and other school staff.

3. Action in the education field should comprise specific measures for all forms of education and training, such as distance learning, adult education, higher education, vocational training, and block-release training. Information technology should be not only for raising the awareness of and training teachers but also for channeling information to young people. Member States are also invited to prepare teaching materials that can be easily used by teachers.

Special attention should also be given to young people outside the school system or educational structures, by taking appropriate measures to inform them.

Article 4

Final provision

Member States are invited to support the implementation of this Recommendation.

Article 5

Addressees

This Recommendation is addressed to the Member States, trade associations, consumer organisations, chambers of commerce, banking associations, enterprises and all other organisations or institutions in contact with them.

Done at Brussels, 23 April 1998.

For the Commission

Yves-Thibault DE SILGUY

Member of the Commission

CORRIGENDA

Corrigendum to Council Decision 98/258/EC of 16 March 1998 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products

(Official Journal of the European Communities L 118 of 21 April 1998)

On page 1 in Article 2:

— add to the end of Article 2 the following reference ‘(’),

— add the following footnote:

‘(’) It should be borne in mind that on adopting Decision 98/258/EC (see also OJ C 136, 1.5.1998, pp. 1 to 11), the Council agreed that the Agreement with the United States would be signed once it had been established by a qualified majority within the Council that the second proposed rule on the animal health status of the European Community, which will be published by the United States in the *Federal Register*, was consistent with the letter from Mr Glickman of 10 March 1998 (OJ C 136, 1.5.1998, p. 2), and in particular with regard to classical swine fever and swine vesicular disease (see page 15, Annex III, of this Official Journal).

Consequently, the date of entry into force of the Agreement with the United States will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* by the General Secretariat of the Council once it has been signed and the procedures mentioned in Article 16 of the said Agreement have been completed.’
