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I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 641/2000
of 28 March 2000
establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and
vegetables**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 of 21 December 1994 on detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables ⁽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 29 March 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 28 March 2000.

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 28 March 2000 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	138,2
	204	110,2
	999	124,2
0707 00 05	052	109,0
	068	130,6
	628	146,6
0709 90 70	999	128,7
	052	102,4
	204	51,3
0805 10 10, 0805 10 30, 0805 10 50	628	113,7
	999	89,1
	052	73,1
0805 30 10	204	38,3
	212	50,8
	220	28,2
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	624	56,4
	999	49,4
	052	33,7
0808 20 50	600	74,1
	999	53,9
	039	90,1
	388	86,5
	400	89,6
	404	86,6
	508	80,6
	512	78,2
	528	87,7
	720	78,5
	999	84,7
	388	71,2
	512	67,6
	528	68,6
	720	71,3
	999	69,7

⁽¹⁾ Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2543/1999 (OJ L 307, 2.12.1999, p. 46). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 642/2000
of 28 March 2000**

opening imports of quantities of quality common wheat, on the one hand, and of quality durum wheat, on the other hand, within the framework of tariff quotas provided for in Regulation (EC) No 778/1999

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

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:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 778/1999 of 15 April 1999 opening and providing for the administration of tariff quotas for 300 000 tonnes of quality wheat and 50 000 tonnes of durum wheat and repealing Regulations (EC) No 529/97 and (EC) No 2228/96 ⁽²⁾ lays down provisions governing imports under these quotas.
- (2) In view of the situation on the Community market for wheat, import licence applications should be called for under the quota of 300 000 tonnes of quality wheat for a given period.
- (3) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

Article 1

1. Import licence applications may be submitted for quality common wheat falling within CN code 1001 90 99 meeting the criteria laid down in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 778/1999, from the date of entry into force of this Regulation. The application period lasts 45 days.
2. A total of 100 000 tonnes of common wheat may be imported in accordance with this Article.
3. Regulation (EC) No 778/1999 shall apply to such imports.

Article 2

1. Import licence applications may be submitted for quality durum wheat falling within CN code 1001 10 00 meeting the criteria laid down in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 778/1999 from the date of entry into force of this Regulation. The application period lasts 45 days.
2. A total of 50 000 tonnes of durum wheat may be imported in accordance with this Article.
3. Regulation (EC) No 778/1999 shall apply to such imports.

Article 3

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, 28 March 2000.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 146, 20.6.1996, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 101, 16.4.1999, p. 36.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 643/2000**of 28 March 2000****on arrangements for using the euro for the purposes of the budgetary management of the Structural Funds**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 33 and Article 53(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 33 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that Commission decisions, commitments and payments will be denominated and carried out in euro in accordance with arrangements to be drawn up by the Commission.
- (2) The conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States which have the euro as their currency are those irrevocably fixed by Council Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 ⁽²⁾; pursuant to Article 1 of Commission Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EC) No 3418/93 of 9 December 1993 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of certain provisions of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Decision 1999/537/EC, ECSC, Euratom ⁽⁴⁾, for Member States which do not have the euro as their currency the exchange rates are the monthly euro rates calculated on the basis of the rates in force on the day before the last working day of the month preceding the month for which the rates are set; these rates are published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.
- (3) Pursuant to the transitional provisions laid down in Article 52(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, for contributions granted under Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3193/94 ⁽⁶⁾, the provisions relating to payments laid down in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1866/90 of 2 July 1990 on arrangements for using the ecu for the purposes of the budgetary management of the Structural Funds ⁽⁷⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2745/94 ⁽⁸⁾, must continue to be applied.

(4) The Committee referred to in Article 147 of the Treaty, the Management Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development, and the Management Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture were consulted on this Regulation.

(5) The measures laid down in this Regulation are in conformity with the opinion of the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1***Presentation of plans, applications for contributions from the Funds and annual and final implementation reports**

1. Development plans, financing plans, applications for assistance and programme complements and the annual and final implementation reports referred to in Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 shall be submitted to the Commission in euro.
2. In the annual and final implementation reports, the amounts in euro in the statements of expenditure must correspond to the amounts in euro obtained by application of Article 2.

*Article 2***Payments**

1. Statements of expenditure in support of payment applications, certified by the paying authority in accordance with Article 32(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 shall be submitted to the Commission in euro.
2. Member States which do not have the euro as their currency on the date of the payment application shall convert into euro the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency, applying the rates in force on the last but one working day at the Commission in the month preceding the month during which the expenditure was recorded in the accounts of the paying authority responsible for the contribution concerned.
3. When the euro becomes the currency of a Member State, the conversion procedure set out in the preceding paragraph shall continue to apply to all expenditure recorded in the accounts by the paying authority before the date of entry into force of the fixed conversion rate between the national currency and the euro.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 359, 31.12.1998, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 315, 16.12.1993, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 206, 5.8.1999, p. 24.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 374, 31.12.1988, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 337, 24.12.1994, p. 11.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 170, 3.7.1990, p. 36.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 290, 11.11.1994, p. 4.

*Article 3***Repeal**

Regulation (EEC) No 1866/90 is hereby repealed without prejudice to the transitional provisions laid down in Article 52 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Article 4

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, 28 March 2000.

For the Commission

Michaele SCHREYER

Member of the Commission

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 644/2000
of 28 March 2000**

**fixing the ceilings on financing for measures to improve the quality of olive-oil production in the
2000/2001 production cycle and derogating from Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation No 136/66/EEC of 22 September 1966 on the establishment of a common organisation of the market in oils and fats ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2702/1999 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5(11) thereof

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 laying down measures to improve the quality of olive oil production ⁽³⁾, and in particular Article 3(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 3(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 provides that ceilings be fixed, for each Member State and each 12-month production cycle, on financing for measures to improve the quality of olive-oil production and its environmental impact which are eligible for reimbursement by the EAGGF Guarantee Section.
- (2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 2181/1999 of 14 October 1999 fixing the estimated production of olive oil and the unit amount of the production aid that may be paid in advance for the 1998/99 marketing year ⁽⁴⁾, estimates production, including production of table olives expressed as olive-oil equivalent, at 1 876 200 tonnes. This corresponds to 890 700 tonnes for Spain, 521 000 tonnes for Greece, 428 800 tonnes for Italy, 33 300 tonnes for Portugal and 2 400 tonnes for France. The amount withheld from production aid for this olive-oil marketing year serves as a basis for financing measures to improve the quality of oil during the production cycle commencing on 1 May 2000.

(3) The measures have relatively fixed minimum costs. The ceilings on total financing for some Member States may therefore prove to be too low. Appropriate limits should consequently be established for those cases.

(4) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Oils and Fats,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For the production cycle from 1 May 2000 to 30 April 2001, the ceilings on financing for the measures laid down in the first subparagraph of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 shall be:

— Spain	EUR 13 419 000,
— Greece	EUR 7 614 000,
— France	EUR 44 400,
— Italy	EUR 7 933 000,
— Portugal	EUR 602 200.

Article 2

Notwithstanding Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999, the additional national financial contribution from Member States whose ceiling on financing laid down in Article 1 is EUR 100 000 or less shall be no more than EUR 250 000.

Article 3

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, 28 March 2000.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 72, 30.9.1966, p. 3025/66.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 327, 21.12.1999, p. 7.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 62, 11.3.1999, p. 8.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 267, 15.10.1999, p. 19.

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 645/2000
of 28 March 2000**

setting out detailed implementing rules necessary for the proper functioning of certain provisions of Article 7 of Council Directive 86/362/EEC and of Article 4 of Council Directive 90/642/EEC concerning the arrangements for monitoring the maximum levels of pesticide residues in and on cereals and products of plant origin, including fruit and vegetables, respectively

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 86/362/EEC of 24 July 1986 on the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Directive 1999/71/EC ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/642/EEC of 27 November 1990 on the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on products of plant origin, including fruit and vegetables ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Directive 1999/71/EC, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 7 of Directive 86/362/EEC and Article 4 of Directive 90/642/EEC respectively set out basic provisions concerning the monitoring of pesticides in and on cereals and fruit and vegetables respectively.
- (2) Experience in setting out and implementing Commission recommendations has shown that multiannual planning, with the possibility of annual adjustment, would be the most effective approach to establishing European Community coordinated monitoring programmes.
- (3) Article 7 of Directive 86/362/EEC and Article 4 of Directive 90/642/EEC provide for review and adoption of any necessary measures, such as the publication by the Commission of European Community reports containing collated and compiled information of the Member States and the adoption of action to be taken at Community level in the case of reported infringements of the maximum levels. Experience has confirmed that in order that their reported results can be used with confidence, laboratories undertaking analyses of pesticide residues must operate with high levels of quality assurance. The participation of laboratories in regular proficiency tests and their implementation of common quality control procedures, may serve to fulfil the accreditation requirements of Article 3 of Council Directive 93/99/EEC of 29 October 1993 on the subject of additional measures concerning the official control of foodstuffs ⁽⁴⁾.
- (4) Because the Commission, in collating and compiling the information submitted by the Member States for presentation as European Community reports, must have

confidence in the quality, accuracy and comparability of that information it is appropriate, that the Commission should contribute financially to actions which support the undertaking at the highest standards achievable of the monitoring programmes. In particular the regular proficiency tests of laboratories and the review and development of quality control procedure guidelines at regular specialist meetings should be supported.

- (5) It is appropriate that the Commission should contribute financially to actions which support other aspects of the coordination of pesticide residue monitoring at Community level. In particular work should be supported to allow the Commission to respond to the requirement that it should work progressively towards a system which would permit the estimation of actual dietary exposure from monitoring data.
- (6) The communication from the Commission on consumer health and food safety (COM(97) 183) describes the operation of the food; veterinary and phytosanitary control and inspection services. The monitoring of pesticide residues in and on cereals and fruit and vegetables is an activity which should be covered by the inspection service.
- (7) The monitoring exercises for 1996 and 1997 demonstrated infringements of the maximum levels as laid down in Directive 90/642/EEC as amended.
- (8) Directive 90/642/EEC, as amended, as well as Directive 86/362/EEC, as amended provide for the adoption of actions to be taken at Community level in the case of reported infringements and for detailed implementing rules necessary for the proper functioning of the monitoring.
- (9) A summary overview of the monitoring systems in all Member States is necessary to improve the monitoring of pesticide residues in the Community and to assist in its proper functioning.
- (10) Detailed implementing rules necessary for the proper functioning of the monitoring provisions should be made. These rules should clearly set out the actions to, and procedures by, which the Commission may make financial contributions, within the available budgetary allocations.
- (11) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plant Health,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 221, 7.8.1986, p. 37.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 194, 27.7.1999, p. 36.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 350, 14.12.1990, p. 71.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 290, 24.11.1993, p. 14.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Commission recommendations made in accordance with the provisions of Article 7(2)(b) of Directive 86/362/EEC and Article 4(2)(b) of Directive 90/642/EEC may cover periods between one and five years.

2. In order to permit the effective year-to-year management of multiannual monitoring programmes, the Commission may submit annual confirmatory and supplementary draft recommendations; these shall be submitted to the Standing Committee on Plant Health as provided for in Article 7(2)(b) of Directive 86/362/EEC and Article 4(2)(b) of Directive 90/642/EEC.

Article 2

In order to facilitate the proper functioning of the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 7 of Directive 86/362/EEC and of Article 4 of Directive 90/642/EEC respectively, the Commission shall:

1. coordinate the activities of the Member States in so far as the requirements for generating, recording, handling and transmitting information on monitoring and monitoring programmes is concerned, as appropriate by means of guidance notes of the Standing Committee on Plant Health, in particular guidelines concerning quality control procedures for pesticide residue analysis ⁽¹⁾ and the working document for guidance to the Member States with regard to implementation of the Commission recommendations concerning coordinated Community monitoring programmes ⁽²⁾;
2. make financial contributions, within the appropriate allocations available in the European Community budget:
 - (a) to the regular organisation of proficiency tests, in principle every two years, of all laboratories performing analyses in order to assure the quality, accuracy and comparability of the information sent by the Member States to the Commission and to the other Member States annually and collated and compiled for publication by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of Article 7(3) of Directive 86/362/EEC and Article 4(3) of Directive 90/642/EEC;
 - (b) to the organisation of the development of quality control procedures for pesticide residue analysis, in the form of guidance notes of the Standing Committee on Plant Health, and to the organisation of the regular review, in principle at two-yearly intervals in specialist meetings, of the application of such procedures in the residue analytical laboratories of the Member States in order to assure the quality, accuracy and comparability of the information sent by the Member States to the Commission and to the other Member States annually

and collated and compiled for publication by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of Article 7(3) of Directive 86/362/EEC and Article 4(3) of Directive 90/642/EEC;

- (c) to the yearly organisation of studies, consultations and other preparations necessary to allow the Commission to work progressively towards a system which could permit the estimation of actual pesticide dietary exposure from monitoring data, as required by the second subparagraph of Article 7(3) of Directive 86/362/EEC and of Article 4(3) of Directive 90/642/EEC; and
- (d) to the organisation of other actions at Community level necessary for the proper implementation of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 7 of Directive 86/362/EEC and of Article 4 of Directive 90/642/EEC respectively which may be identified by the Commission and the Standing Committee on Plant Health.

Article 3

1. The Commission shall designate the beneficiary or beneficiaries of the financial contributions provided for in Article 2(2) by means of a decision adopted in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 12 of Directive 86/362/EEC and of Article 10 of Directive 90/642/EEC.

2. The Commission decision, provided for in paragraph 1, shall in particular set out:

- the name of the beneficiary or beneficiaries of the Community financial contribution,
- the total cost of the action to be undertaken, and the contributions of the parties involved in undertaking the action, including the European Community,
- a summary description of the action to be undertaken,
- a timetable for the completion of the action.

Article 4

Member States shall ensure that the analytical results sent to the Commission and to the other Member States annually, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7(3) of Directive 86/362/EEC and Article 4(3) of Directive 90/642/EEC have been obtained by laboratories which:

- are in compliance with the requirements of Article 3 of Directive 93/99/EEC, and
- make every effort to implement the quality control procedures for pesticide residue analysis provided for in Article 2(2)(b) of this Regulation.

In addition, Member States shall ensure that participation in the coordinated Community programme shall be restricted to laboratories which have participated in a previous, or which shall participate in the next round of the relevant Community proficiency tests provided for in Article 2(2)(a) of this Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 128, 21.5.1999, p. 30.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 128, 21.5.1999, p. 48.

Article 5

1. The Commission shall appoint special, suitably qualified officials to monitor in the Member States, together with the national authorities, the carrying out of the national and Community monitoring programmes for pesticide residues in and on foodstuffs of plant origin. This includes sampling and the performance of the relevant laboratories.
2. The officials will visit the national authorities in each of the Member States, who will cooperate with the Commission's designated officials and give all necessary assistance to enable them to accomplish their tasks. The programmes of the visits shall be organised and carried out in collaboration with the Member State concerned. In any event, the national authorities shall remain responsible for the carrying out of the control operations.
3. The Commission shall arrange for these visits with the national officials within a suitable time-frame. In addition to experts from the Member State visited, the Commission's experts may be accompanied during the visits by one or more

experts from one or more other Member States. During the visits, the Member State expert or experts appointed by the Commission shall comply with the Commission's administrative rules.

4. After each visit, the Commission shall prepare a written report. The Member State visited will be given the opportunity to comment on this report.
5. The Commission shall regularly notify by written report all Member States, in the Standing Committee on Plant Health, on the outcome of the visits to each Member State. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament. The Commission shall also make the reports publicly available on a regular basis.
6. The provisions of this Article shall be re-examined by 31 October 2001.

Article 6

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 April 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 28 March 2000.

For the Commission
David BYRNE
Member of the Commission

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 20 March 2000

on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with the Republic of Cyprus

(2000/248/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 of 13 March 2000 on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Malta ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Luxembourg European Council stated that the Accession Partnership is a new instrument and the key feature of the enhanced pre-accession strategy.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 complements Regulation (EC) No 622/98 ⁽²⁾ which provides that the Council is to decide, by a qualified majority and following a proposal from the Commission, on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the individual Accession Partnerships, as they will be submitted to each applicant country, as well as on subsequent significant adjustments applicable to them.
- (3) Community assistance is conditional on the fulfilment of essential elements, and in particular on progress towards fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria. Where an essential element is lacking, the Council, acting by a qualified

majority on a proposal from the Commission, may take appropriate steps with regard to any pre-accession assistance.

- (4) The 1999 Commission's regular report presented an objective analysis on the Republic of Cyprus' preparations for membership and identified a number of priority areas for further work.
- (5) In order to prepare for membership, the Republic of Cyprus should prepare a national programme for the adoption of the *acquis*. This programme should set out a timetable for achieving the priorities and intermediate objectives established in the Accession Partnership,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

In accordance with Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership for the Republic of Cyprus are set out in the Annex hereto, which forms an integral part of this Decision.

Article 2

The implementation of the Accession Partnership shall be examined in the Association Agreement bodies as appropriate, and through the competent Council bodies to which the Commission shall report regularly.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 68, 16.3.2000, p. 3.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 622/98 of 16 March 1998 on assistance to the applicant States in the framework of the pre-accession strategy, and in particular on the establishment of Accession Partnerships (OJ L 85, 20.3.1998, p. 1).

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, 20 March 2000.

For the Council
The President
J. GAMA

ANNEX

CYPRUS: 1999 ACCESSION PARTNERSHIP

1. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Accession Partnership is to set out in a single framework the priority areas for further work identified in the Commission's 1999 regular report on the progress made by Cyprus towards membership of the European Union, the financial means available to help Cyprus implement these priorities and the conditions which will apply to that assistance. This Accession Partnership provides the basis for a number of policy instruments which will be used to help the candidate countries in their preparations for membership. These include, *inter alia*, the national programme for the adoption of the *acquis*, the joint assessment of medium-term economic policy priorities, the pact against organised crime as well as the national development plans and other sectoral plans necessary for the participation in Structural Funds after membership. Each of these instruments is different in nature and is prepared and implemented according to specific procedures. They are not an integral part of this Partnership but the priorities they contain will be compatible with it.

2. PRINCIPLES

The main priority areas identified for each candidate country relate to their ability to assume the obligations of meeting the Copenhagen criteria which state that membership requires:

- that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities,
- the existence of a functioning market economy, as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union,
- the ability to take on the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

At its meeting in Madrid, the European Council stressed the need for the candidate countries to adjust their administrative structures to ensure the harmonious operation of Community policies after accession and at Luxembourg, it stressed that incorporation of the *acquis* into legislation is necessary, but not in itself sufficient; it is necessary to ensure that it is actually applied.

3. PRIORITIES AND INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

The Commission's regular reports have highlighted the extent of the efforts which still have to be made in certain areas by the candidate countries to prepare for accession. This situation requires the definition of intermediate stages in terms of priorities, each to be accompanied by precise objectives to be set in collaboration with the countries concerned, the achievement of which will condition the degree of assistance granted and the progress of the negotiations under way with some countries and the opening of new negotiations with the others. The priorities and intermediate objectives are divided into two groups — short- and medium-term. Those listed under the short term have been selected on the basis that it is realistic to expect that Cyprus can complete or take them substantially forward by the end of 2000. The priorities listed under the medium term are expected to take more than one year to complete although work should, wherever possible, also begin on them during 2000.

Cyprus has been invited to prepare a national programme for the adoption of the *acquis* (NPAA). It will set out a timetable for achieving priorities and intermediate objectives, based on the Accession Partnership, as well as necessary administrative structures and financial resources.

The Accession Partnership indicates the priority areas for Cyprus' membership preparations. Cyprus will nevertheless have to address all issues identified in the regular report. It is also important that Cyprus fulfils the commitments of legislative approximation and implementation of the *acquis* in accordance with the commitments made under the Association Agreement, the screening exercise and the negotiation process. It should be recalled that incorporation of the *acquis* into legislation is not in itself sufficient; it will also be necessary to ensure that it is actually applied to the same standards as those which apply within the Union. In all of the areas listed below there is a need for credible and effective implementation and enforcement of the *acquis*.

Drawing on the analysis of the Commission's regular report, the following short- and medium-term priorities and intermediate objectives have been identified for Cyprus.

3.1. Short term (2000)

Political criteria

- maximise efforts to support a settlement under the auspices of the UN.

Economic criteria

- correct the widening of the fiscal and current account deficits,
- strengthen effectiveness of monetary policy and effective liberalisation of capital movement by abolishing the interest rate ceiling on all lending operations,
- bring the cooperative credit and savings societies sector in line with the *acquis* and international accounting standards.

Internal Market

- public procurement: further harmonise legislation with regard to publication, time limits and review bodies; extend the law to local authorities and bodies governed by public law,
- industrial and intellectual property rights: align and enforce trade mark, copyright and neighbouring rights legislation; reinforce administrative capacity and the fight against counterfeiting especially by strengthening border controls,
- free movement of goods: adopt horizontal legislation on standardisation and certification; transpose sectoral legislation in the field of motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, cosmetics and hygiene requirements in foodstuffs; accelerate adoption of EN standards; strengthen administrative structures in particular on standards, certification and accreditation and continue transposition of new approach Directives,
- free movement of capital: continue to align rules on medium- and long-term capital operations and prepare the way for subsequent liberalisation of short term operations, notably by introduction of market interest rates,
- competition: complete anti-trust legislation; align State aid legislation and increase transparency of indirect aid,
- telecommunications: develop new law on telecommunications to align with the *acquis*; establish an independent regulatory authority,
- taxation: pursue VAT harmonisation diminishing the zero-rate extension and abolishing special VAT regime for offshore companies; abolish all excise duty discrimination against imports from the EU, introduce tax warehouse system and the movement procedures of excisable goods; ensure that new tax measures comply with the principles of the code of conduct for business taxation,
- customs: adopt a pre-accession strategy for the harmonisation of the Cypriot customs legislation; accelerate computerisation process.

Agriculture

- prepare measures required to implement and establish administrative structures for the common agricultural policy and rural development policies,
- continue alignment of veterinary and phytosanitary legislation; upgrade inspection arrangements, in particular at future external borders.

Fisheries

- align legislation further with the *acquis* in the field of licensing for fishing vessels under Cypriot flag; further strengthen the administrative capacity notably in the areas of inspection and control of the fishing vessels and the establishment of a separate fishing fleet register.

Environment

- complete transposition and enforce the environmental impact assessment Directive,
- adopt a strategy and detailed directive-specific programme for the transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU environmental *acquis*,
- accelerate transposition, particularly in the fields of water quality, waste management and air quality,
- develop a plan for financing investments (directive specific), based on estimations of costs of alignment and realistic sources of public and private finance year-by-year.

Employment and social affairs

- support social partners' capacity-building efforts to develop and implement the *acquis*,
- strengthen administrative capacity in the fields of labour law, equal opportunities and coordination of social security,
- strengthen enforcement structures in the fields of health and safety at work (in particular the Labour Inspectorate).

Transport

- align maritime transport legislation and enforce safety standards (reduce the high detention rate of Cyprus flag vessels); adopt an action plan on monitoring classification societies and improving performance of the Cyprus flag register.

Justice and home affairs

- adopt and implement asylum legislation in accordance with the EU *acquis*,
- ensure regular and complete reporting by the offshore banking sector,
- upgrade border control equipment and improve training of personnel to prevent illegal immigration, ensure further progress in the detection of forged documents,
- ratify the European Convention on Mutual Assistance and its protocol and the European Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, sign the OECD Convention on bribery,
- regarding money laundering, reinforce administrative structure; increase resources in the unit for combating money laundering particularly on the prevention side; increase its strategic analysis function especially regarding data on suspicious transactions provided by the Central Bank and other financial institutions.

Reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity including capacity to manage and control EU funds

- complete the legislative framework for internal and external financial control; set up a central organisation within the government for harmonising internal audit/control functions; set up internal audit/control units in spending centres; introduce 'functional independence' for national, internal controllers/auditors at both central and decentralised levels and *ex-ante* financial control; issue an audit manual and develop audit trails for the control of EU funds,
- make available GDP/capita data in accordance with EU methodology.

3.2. Medium term*Economic criteria*

- implement programme for liberalisation of utilities,
- complete the structural reform programme, in particular in the financial sector,
- liberalise further capital account operations regarding direct investment, real estate investment, portfolio transactions, financial credits and the opening of deposits abroad; liberalise foreign participation in financial services, oil refining, tourism and trading,
- continue efforts to improve the conditions for enterprise creation and development, with particular attention to small- and medium-sized enterprises,
- continue efforts to restructure the textile sector,
- establish an annual fiscal surveillance procedure aimed to bring the reporting, monitoring and control of public finances, specifically fiscal positions, in line with EU procedures.

Internal Market

- public procurement: remove the preferential treatment clause in favour of local production by end of 2002,
- company law: transpose second and twelfth company law Directives; further align with the first, third and sixth Directives; implement the *acquis* on balance sheets and profit/loss accounts; align with EU accounting rules for private exempt companies,
- data protection: adopt national legislation, including establishment of an independent supervisory authority,
- free movement of goods: continue transposition in the field of legal metrology and for machines, lifts, construction products, gas appliances, electrical equipment, medical devices and personal protective equipment; complete transposition of new approach directives,
- free movement of capital: abolish remaining restrictions and authorisation procedures,
- free movement of persons: complete alignment of mutual recognition of diplomas,
- competition: reinforce competition authorities; ensure compliance of the State aid legislation,

- telecommunication: complete alignment of regulatory framework, in particular in the fields of licensing, interconnection and universal service, numbering and data protection; complete the creation of an independent regulatory authority by end of 2002; terminate monopoly of voice telephony,
- taxation: complete the alignment of VAT system and increase the excise duties rates to the EU minimum levels; review existing laws and ensure compatibility with the code of conduct for business taxation,
- consumer protection: continue alignment and strengthen market surveillance and enforcement authorities,
- customs: accelerate the legislative harmonisation including introduction of customs regimes with economic impact and simplified procedures; strengthen the institutional and administrative capacity; continue fight against fraud and corruption.

Agriculture

- continue preparations for implementation of the common agricultural policy and rural development policies.

Environment

- complete transposition; continue to strengthen the institutional, administrative and monitoring capacity to ensure environmental protection,
- implement waste management strategy,
- integrate sustainable development principles into the definition and implementation of all other sectoral policies.

Energy

- align oil-stock requirements; incorporate national regulatory energy objectives for emission control in power stations and use of unleaded gasoline, as well as the use of low sulphur diesel into the legal framework; further improve energy efficiency,
- prepare for the internal energy market, notably the electricity and gas Directives (including adaptation of energy prices to cost levels and the establishment of a regulator),
- continue to improve energy efficiency.

Employment and social affairs

- transpose and implement EU legislation in the field of occupational health and safety, labour law, equal treatment of women and men and public health; reinforce related administrative structures and those required for the coordination of social security,
- prepare a national employment strategy, with the help of the joint employment policy review, with a view to later participation in the European employment strategy.

Economic and social cohesion

- develop a national policy for economic and social cohesion with a view to diminishing internal disparities and preparing for Structural Funds implementation including pluriannual budgeting procedures and establishing structures for monitoring appraisal and evaluation.

Transport

- complete alignment and implement legislation on road transport (market access, road safety, rules for dangerous goods and taxation), maritime transport legislation and aviation (particularly air safety and air traffic management).

Justice and home affairs

- further upgrade law enforcement bodies and the judiciary (staff numbers, training and equipment) to continue the fight against organised crime, trafficking in women and children, drug trafficking and corruption, ensure better coordination between law enforcement bodies,
- continue progressive alignment of visa legislation and practice with that of the EU,
- ensure effective application of international instruments on judicial cooperation, especially the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Penal Matters and its additional Protocol, the European Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, as well as the Hague Convention on Civil Procedure and on Access to Justice.

Reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity including capacity to manage and control EU funds

- strengthen public financial control functions through the provision of adequate staff, training and equipment.

4. PROGRAMMING

The fourth Financial Protocol (30 October 1995 to 31 December 1998) was extended by one year (until the end of 1999). The Protocol is the sole EU financial instrument (apart from EIB loans) to support activities resulting from Cyprus' pre-accession strategy.

In 1998, EUR 4,65 million were committed and for 1999, EUR 5 million are available. Under these national allocations, Cyprus can also fund part of its participation in Community programmes including in the fifth research and technological development framework programme.

Financial assistance from the year 2000 will be determined once the draft regulation on pre-accession finance has been adopted by the Council.

Activities financed as from the year 2000, will focus assistance on the adoption of the Community *acquis* on the basis of the priorities set out in this Accession Partnership as well as on promoting joint activities between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities on the island.

Cyprus is eligible for EIB loan finance under the Euro-Med mandate and the pre-accession facility. Moreover, there are also EUR 50 million of EIB loans available under the fourth Financial Protocol between Cyprus and the EU.

5. CONDITIONALITY

Community assistance for financing projects is conditional on respect by Cyprus of its commitments under the Association Agreement, further steps towards satisfying the Copenhagen criteria and in particular progress in meeting the specific priorities of this Accession Partnership in 2000. Failure to respect these general conditions could lead to a decision by the Council on the suspension of financial assistance on the basis of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 622/98.

6. MONITORING

The implementation of the Accession Partnership is monitored in the framework of the Association Agreement and in particular in the Association Committee. The Accession Partnership will be amended as necessary in accordance with Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 622/98.

COUNCIL DECISION
of 20 March 2000
on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the Accession
Partnership with the Republic of Malta

(2000/249/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 of 13 March 2000 on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Malta ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Luxembourg European Council stated that the Accession Partnership is a new instrument and the key feature of the enhanced pre-accession strategy.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 complements Regulation (EC) No 622/98 ⁽²⁾ which provides that the Council is to decide, by a qualified majority and following a proposal from the Commission, on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the individual Accession Partnerships, as they are submitted to each applicant country, as well as on subsequent significant adjustments applicable to them.
- (3) Community assistance is conditional on the fulfilment of essential elements, and in particular on progress towards fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria. Where an essential element is lacking, the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, may take appropriate steps with regard to any pre-accession assistance.
- (4) The 1999 Commission's regular report presented an objective analysis on the Republic of Malta's preparations for membership and identified a number of priority areas for further work.

- (5) In order to prepare for membership, the Republic of Malta should prepare a national programme for the adoption of the *acquis*. This programme should set out a timetable for achieving the priorities and intermediate objectives established in the Accession Partnership,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

In accordance with Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership for the Republic of Malta are set out in the Annex hereto, which forms an integral part of this Decision.

Article 2

The implementation of the Accession Partnership shall be examined in the Association Agreement bodies as appropriate and through the competent Council bodies to which the Commission shall report regularly.

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, 20 March 2000.

For the Council
The President
J. GAMA

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 68, 16.3.2000, p. 3.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 622/98 of 16 March 1998 on assistance to the applicant States in the framework of the pre-accession strategy, and in particular on the establishment of Accession Partnerships (OJ L 85, 20.3.1998, p. 1).

ANNEX

MALTA: 1999 ACCESSION PARTNERSHIP**1. OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the Accession Partnership is to set out in a single framework the priority areas for further work identified in the Commission's 1999 regular report on the progress made by Malta towards membership of the European Union, the financial means available to help Malta implement these priorities and the conditions which will apply to that assistance. This Accession Partnership provides the basis for a number of policy instruments which will be used to help the candidate countries in their preparations for membership. These include, *inter alia* the national programme for the adoption of the *acquis*, the joint assessment of medium-term economic policy priorities, the pact against organised crime as well as the national development plans and other sectoral plans necessary for the participation in Structural Funds after membership. Each of these instruments is different in nature and is prepared and implemented according to specific procedures. They are not an integral part of this Partnership but the priorities they contain will be compatible with it.

2. PRINCIPLES

The main priority areas identified for each candidate country relate to their ability to assume the obligations of meeting the Copenhagen criteria which state that membership requires:

- that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities,
- the existence of a functioning market economy, as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union,
- the ability to take on the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

At its meeting in Madrid, the European Council stressed the need for the candidate countries to adjust their administrative structures to ensure the harmonious operation of Community policies after accession and at Luxembourg, it stressed that incorporation of the *acquis* into legislation is necessary, but not in itself sufficient; it is necessary to ensure that it is actually applied.

3. PRIORITIES AND INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

The Commission's regular reports have highlighted the extent of the efforts which still have to be made in certain areas by the candidate countries to prepare for accession. This situation requires the definition of intermediate stages in terms of priorities, each to be accompanied by precise objectives to be set in collaboration with the countries concerned, the achievement of which will condition the degree of assistance granted and the progress of the negotiations under way with some countries and the opening of new negotiations with the others. The priorities and intermediate objectives are divided into two groups — short- and medium-term. Those listed under the short term have been selected on the basis that it is realistic to expect that Malta can complete or take them substantially forward by the end of 2000. The priorities listed under the medium-term are expected to take more than one year to complete although work should, wherever possible, also begin on them during 2000.

Malta is currently preparing a national programme for the adoption of the *acquis* (NPAA). It will set out a timetable for achieving priorities and intermediate objectives, based on the Accession Partnership, as well as necessary administrative structures and financial resources.

The Accession Partnership indicates the priority areas for Malta's membership preparations. Malta will nevertheless have to address all issues identified in the regular report. It is also important that Malta fulfils the commitments of legislative approximation and implementation of the *acquis* in accordance with the commitments made under the Association Agreement and the screening exercise. It should be recalled that incorporation of the *acquis* into legislation is not in itself sufficient; it will also be necessary to ensure that it is actually applied to the same standards as those which apply within the Union. In all of the areas listed below there is a need for credible and effective implementation and enforcement of the *acquis*.

Drawing on the analysis of the Commission's regular report, the following short- and medium-term priorities and intermediate objectives have been identified for Malta.

3.1. Short-term (2000)

Economic criteria

- establish a medium-term economic policy for the creation of a stable and sound macroeconomic environment,
- establish clear long-term policies on taxation and bring previously unrecorded economic activity within the tax net,
- define an industrial restructuring policy to accelerate industrial restructuring, in particular in the agri-food and furniture sectors, and continue privatisation.

Internal market

- intellectual and industrial property rights: adopt a new Patents Act in line with the European Patent Convention and the EC Regulations creating a supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products and for plant protection products,
- company law: continue alignment, in particular transpose the 11th Directive,
- data protection: adopt national legislation in accordance with EU directives,
- free movement of goods: eliminate levies on imports from the EU; align civil and consumer policy legislation with the product liability directive by providing rules on the manufacturer's strict liability,
- free movement of capital: adopt a precise calendar for achieving free movement of capital, starting by dismantling restrictions on long-term inward and outward capital flows,
- competition: adopt a merger law; ensure application of competition rules to public undertakings with special or exclusive rights; adopt a State aid law and set up a State monitoring authority; complete State aid inventory and annual State aid reports,
- telecommunications: establish independent national regulatory authority,
- audiovisual: complete alignment of legislation,
- taxation: continue transposition and establish timetable for full legislative alignment of VAT and excise duties legislation; ensure that new tax measures comply with the principles of the code of conduct for business taxation,
- customs: design a timetable for harmonisation of legislation; adopt the Combined Nomenclature including harmonised rules of origin; implement the Single Administrative Document: reinforce institutional and administrative capacity including computerisation.

Agriculture

- prepare measures required to implement and establish administrative structures for the common agricultural policy and rural development policies,
- continue alignment of veterinary and phytosanitary legislation and upgrade inspection arrangements, in particular at future external borders.

Environment

- adopt a strategy and a detailed, directive-specific programme for the transposition, the implementation and the enforcement of the EU environmental *acquis*, in particular through the development of framework and sector legislation, together with preparation of the necessary implementing regulations and capacity building requirements,
- develop a plan for financing investments (directive specific), based on estimations of costs of alignment and realistic sources of public and private finance year-by-year,
- complete transposition and enforce the environmental impact assessment Directive.

Transport

- adopt a strategy and timetable for the transposition and implementation of the *acquis* particularly in the field of aviation and maritime transport (including maritime safety).

Employment and social affairs

- support social partners' capacity-building efforts to develop and implement the *acquis*

Justice and home affairs

- lift the geographical reservation to the 1951 Geneva Convention in the field of asylum; boost participation in international cooperation in the field of justice,
- adopt specific legislation on asylum and set up structures in charge of dealing with asylum requests; sign the Council of Europe Agreement on illicit drug trafficking by sea,
- strengthen the staff of the economic crime squad and of the services in charge of the fight against drugs; ratify the European convention on laundering of proceeds of crime, sign the European criminal law convention on corruption and the OECD Convention on Bribery.

Reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity including capacity to manage and control EU funds

- present a programme on public administration reform aiming at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the public administration,
- complete the legislative framework for internal and external financial control; set up a central organisation within the government for harmonising internal audit/control functions; set up internal audit/control unit in spending centres; introduce 'functional independence' for national internal controllers/auditors at both central and decentralised levels and *ex-ante* financial control; issue an audit manual and develop audit trial for control of EU funds,
- make available GDP/capita data in accordance with EU methodology.

3.2. Medium-term*Economic criteria*

- reduce public debt and the budget deficit,
- improve tax collection and reform of the public sector; restructure loss-making public sector enterprises and ensure that they face market discipline,
- strengthen the financial system to prepare for a fully liberalised capital account regime,
- complete the process of privatisation,
- continue efforts to improve the conditions for enterprise creation and development, with particular attention to small- and medium-sized enterprises,
- establish an annual fiscal surveillance procedure aimed to bring the reporting, monitoring and control of public finances, specifically fiscal positions, in line with the EU procedures.

Internal market

- public procurement: complete alignment to include local authorities and other bodies governed by public law; adapt the judicial review system to the requirements of relevant directives,
- data protection: establish independent supervisory authority,
- free movement of goods: ensure sufficient independence of standardisation, certification, accreditation and metrology bodies and finalise overall institutional arrangements; align national legislation in the field of pharmaceuticals with the *acquis*,
- free movement of capital: abolish remaining restrictions on inward and outward capital movements in order to achieve full liberalisation,
- free movement of services: align banking rules on deposit guarantee schemes and consolidate its supervision; adjust legislation on payment systems; further align legislation in the securities sector,
- free movement of persons: complete alignment of mutual recognition of diplomas,
- competition: reinforce the competition authorities; ensure conformity of State aid system in particular with regard to shipbuilding,
- telecommunications: bring the telecommunications regulatory frameworks fully in line with the *acquis* in particular in the fields of licensing, interconnection and universal service, numbering and data protection,
- taxation: full alignment of the tax *acquis* including the Community's transitional VAT regime; review existing laws and ensure compatibility with the code of conduct for business taxation; strengthen administrative capacity and control procedures including administrative cooperation and mutual assistance,

- consumer protection: continue alignment and strengthen market surveillance and enforcement authorities,
- customs: complete alignment of legislation including customs procedures with an economic impact, free zones, customs warehouses, tariff quotas and ceilings, suspensions, counterfeited and pirated goods and a binding tariff information system; provide for the use of simplified procedures; reinforce the organisation, in particular to prepare for the operation of all customs procedures with economic impact, the system of tariff suspensions and the administration of tariff quotas and ceilings; continue fight against fraud and corruption.

Agriculture

- continue preparations for implementation of the common agricultural policy and rural development policies.

Fisheries

- continue alignment, in particular on controls, imports and State aid, as well as the fleet register.

Energy

- prepare for the internal energy market, notably the electricity and gas directives (including adaptation of energy prices to cost levels and the establishment of a regulator),
- align national legislation (oil stock requirements and energy efficiency) with the *acquis*; restructure Malta's institutional structures to separate policy formulation and regulation and reinforcement of its capacity to implement the *acquis*.

Environment

- complete transposition and implement the *acquis* with particular attention to the framework legislation, the horizontal legislation, and to the legislation on nature protection, on water quality and on waste management; strengthen the institutional, administrative and monitoring capacity,
- integrate sustainable development principles into the definition and implementation of all other sectoral policies.

Employment and social affairs

- transpose and implement EU legislation in the fields of occupational health and safety, labour law, equal treatment of women and men and public health; reinforce related administrative structures and those required for the coordination of social security,
- prepare a national employment strategy, with the help of the joint employment policy review, with a view to later participation in the European employment strategy.

Economic and social cohesion

- develop a national policy for economic and social cohesion with a view to diminishing internal disparities and preparing for Structural Funds implementation including pluriannual budgeting procedures and establishing structures for monitoring appraisal and evaluation.

Transport

- align road transport (market access, road safety, rules for dangerous goods and taxation), maritime transport legislation and aviation (particularly air safety and air traffic management).

Justice and home affairs

- continue progressive alignment of visa legislation and practice with that of the EU,
- continue fight against trafficking in women and children.

Reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity including capacity to manage and control EU funds

- reform the public sector in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public administration,
- strengthen public financial control functions through the provision of adequate staff, training and equipment,
- adopt EU compatible statistical methodologies and practices, in particular as regards GDP estimation, harmonised consumer price indexes, short-term indicators, social statistics, business register and balance of payments.

4. PROGRAMMING

The date of validity of the fourth Financial Protocol (12 June 1995 to 31 October 1998) was extended by one year (until 31 December 1999). The Protocol is the sole EU financial instrument (apart from EIB loans) for financial and technical cooperation.

In 1998 no new funds were committed given the pre-accession orientation of the 1996 indicative programme. The funds available in 1999 amounted to EUR 5 million. Under these national allocations, Malta can also fund part of its participation in Community programmes including in the fifth research and technological development framework programme.

Financial assistance from the year 2000 will be determined once the draft regulation on pre-accession finance has been adopted by the Council. Under these national allocations, Malta will also be able to fund part of its future participation in Community programmes.

Activities financed as from the year 2000 will focus assistance on the adoption of the Community *acquis* on the basis of priority areas set out in this Accession Partnership.

Malta is eligible for EIB loan finance under the Euro-Med mandate. There are also EUR 30 million of EIB loans available under the fourth Financial Protocol between Malta and the EU.

5. CONDITIONALITY

Community assistance for financing projects is conditional on respect by Malta of its commitments under the Association Agreement, further steps towards satisfying the Copenhagen criteria and in particular progress in meeting the specific priorities of this Accession Partnership in 2000. Failure to respect these general conditions could lead to a decision by the Council on the suspension of financial assistance on the basis of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 622/98.

6. MONITORING

The implementation of the Accession Partnership is monitored in the framework of the Association Agreement and in particular in the Association Committee. The Accession Partnership will be amended as necessary in accordance with Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 622/98.

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 16 November 1999

on the State aid which Italy plans to grant for the creation of new shipyards at Oristano (Sardinia) and Belvedere Marittimo (Calabria)

(notified under document number C(1999) 4839)

(Only the Italian version is authentic)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/250/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 88(2) thereof,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and in particular Article 62(1)(a) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/684/EEC of 21 December 1990 on aid to shipbuilding ⁽¹⁾, whose application was extended by Regulation (EC) No 2600/97 ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1540/98 of 29 June 1998 establishing new rules on aid to shipbuilding ⁽³⁾,

Having called on interested parties to submit their comments pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 88(2) of the EC Treaty, and having regard to their comments,

Whereas:

I. PROCEDURE

(1) By letters dated 17 November 1997 and 6 March 1998, registered by the Commission on 18 November 1997 and 12 March 1998 respectively, the Italian authorities notified the Commission of two identical plants to grant investment aid for the construction of two new shipyards under Decree-Law No 415 of 22 October 1992, converted by Law No 488 of 19 December 1992 on regional investment aid in Italy (hereinafter referred to as Law No 488/92).

Further information was requested on the first project notified, and the Italian authorities' reply was transmitted at the same time as they notified the second project.

(2) By letter dated 14 July 1998, the Commission informed the Italian Government that it has decided to initiate the procedure laid down in Article 88(2) of the EC Treaty in

respect of the aid. The Italian authorities submitted their comments to the Commission by means of letter No 3896 dated 2 March 1999 from their Permanent Representative's Office. The Commission decision to initiate the procedure was published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* ⁽⁴⁾, with an invitation to interested parties to submit their comments. The Commission received comments from interested parties and forwarded them to the Italian Government, which was given the opportunity to react.

(3) By letters dated 18 September 1998 and 5 August 1999, the Italian authorities sent the Commission comments and relevant information for the purpose of assessing the two projects.

II. DESCRIPTION

(4) The investments are based on project studies carried out by a European consortium (Euroinvest) grouping together small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and trade associations, particularly in Italy, Greece and Portugal.

The industrial objective is to build twin-hull and single-hull fast ferries, for which, according to the studies on which the project is based, the market is booming. The technology exists and is already used by another Italian shipyard specialised in this type of vessel. In terms of technology and innovation, the type of vessels to be built meets the most up-to-date standards for high-speed ships.

The aim of each of the projects, the unit investment cost of which is ITL 89,3 billion, is to build one vessel per year, representing 80 000 man-hours of labour per year and employing around 50 workers.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 380, 31.12.1990, p. 27.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 351, 23.12.1997, p. 18.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 202, 18.7.1998, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 307, 7.10.1998, p. 8.

- (5) The aid would be granted under the Italian regional investment aid scheme laid down by Law No 488/92. In both cases the shipyards are located in Objective 1 regions, in which investment aid may be granted up to a maximum of 50 % nge plus 15 % gge for SMEs. Having due regard to the planned amount of the aid, which is ITL 53,4 billion for Oristano and ITL 54,6 billion for Belvedere Marittimo, and on the basis of the costs eligible under the guidelines on national regional aid ⁽¹⁾, the total net grant equivalent of the aid is 45,75 % and 42,34 % respectively.
- (6) In its request for further information the Commission stated that an operation of this nature could possibly be contemplated only on condition that, as stipulated in Article 6 of Directive 90/684/EEC, the new capacity directly replaced pre-existing capacity that had recently been closed.

In their reply the Italian authorities were unable to provide a precise list of shipyards deleted from the Italian special register of shipyards or to state whether the capacity of recently closed yards corresponded to the new capacity that was to be created.

III. COMMENTS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES

- (7) During the procedure the French authorities sent in comments, in response to the Commission's invitation, by letter dated 10 November 1998. They stressed above all the capacity problems facing the shipbuilding industry and stated that existing shipyards in the EU were sufficient to meet the demand for high-speed vessels.

IV. COMMENTS FROM ITALY

- (8) By letter No 6239 dated 18 September 1998, the Italian authorities informed the Commission that the notified project at Belvedere Marittimo had been modified and no longer involved building vessels falling within the scope of the Community rules. Notification on the project was therefore withdrawn. As far as the project at Oristano was concerned, an agreement was to be entered into with the Clemna shipyard at La Spezia with a view to transferring the relevant capacity.
- (9) At the Commission's request, the Italian authorities provided, by letter dated 9 August 1999, more detailed information confirming that there was an alternative plan for the Belvedere Marittimo site, involving the construction of 38-metre catamarans with a tonnage of less than 100 grt and small tugs with a power rating of less than 365 kW, and that the Clemna shipyard, which had useful capacity of 3 000 grt, was completing work

on its last order, was in liquidation and would be deleted from the Italian special register of shipyards.

V. ASSESSMENT

- (10) The notified aid is provided for by Article 1(2) of Law No 488/92, supplemented by a number of decrees and ministerial circulars laying down the detailed arrangements for implementing it and approved by the Commission on 19 May 1997 ⁽²⁾. Manufacturing firms located in Objective 1, 2 or 5(b) areas or in areas eligible for regional aid under the exemptions provided for by Article 87(3)(a) or (c) of the EC Treaty may receive assistance under the scheme. The eligible investments and costs include in particular the construction of new production plants.
- (11) When it authorised the aid scheme, the Commission also approved the map specifying the areas eligible for regional aid in Italy and the intensities allowed. Since Sardinia and Calabria have been classed as Objective 1 areas, aid may be granted there in respect of eligible investments up to maximum intensity of 50 % nge. An extra 15 % gge may be granted to SMEs.
- (12) As the Commission stated in the letter authorising the scheme which it sent to the Italian Government, the scheme is subject to the Community rules and guidelines applicable to specific sectors. Since the aid under examination is for investment in the construction of new shipyards, it is subject to the sectoral rules in force at the time the aid was notified, namely Directive 90/684/EEC on aid to shipbuilding, whose application was extended until 31 December 1998 by Regulation (EC) No 2600/97. Article 1(a) of the Directive defines shipbuilding as the building in the Community of metal-hulled sea-going vessels, including ships of any kind of not less than 100 grt and tugs of not less than 365 kW. Article 11(2)(b) of the Directive provides that 'The following shall be notified to the Commission in advance by the Member States and authorised by the Commission before they are put into effect: (...) any decision to apply any general or regional aid scheme to the undertakings covered by this Directive'.
- (13) The Oristano shipyard construction project fulfils the conditions mentioned in recital 12 and must therefore be examined in the light of Article 6(1) of Directive 90/684/EEC, which stipulates that 'Investment aid, whether specific or non-specific, may not be granted for the creation of new shipyards or for investment in existing yards unless it is linked to a restructuring plan which does not involve any increase in the shipbuilding capacity of the yard or unless it is directly linked to a corresponding irreversible reduction in the capacity of other yards in the same Member States over the same period (...)'.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 74, 10.3.1998, p. 9.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 247, 21.7.1997, p. 3.

- (14) The Italian Government stated that the Clemna shipyard at La Spezia, which was entered on the Italian special register of shipyards under number 17, was about to be put into liquidation, definitively ceasing its shipbuilding activities. That shipyard, which registered its last order in 1996, had a useful capacity of 3 000 grt but an effective capacity of 2 000 grt. As the work programme for the new shipyard shows an annual production equivalent to 2 000 grt, the new capacity installed at Oristano can be regarded as being directly offset by the closure of existing capacity during the same period. The conditions laid down in Directive 90/684/EEC are therefore met and the investment aid can be deemed compatible with the common market.
- (15) However, in order to check that the closure of the capacity of the Clemna shipyard at La Spezia is definitive and irreversible, the Italian authorities must let the Commission have all the necessary information regarding activities carried out on the site of the closed yard; the information given in these reports may be verified by the Commission.
- (16) As far as the Belvedere Marittimo shipyard is concerned, the new plan presented by the Italian authorities shows that the firm to be set up does not fulfil the conditions mentioned in recital 12 for the application of the provisions concerned and that there is consequently no need for the Commission to examine the project in the light of Directive 90/684/EEC.
- (17) However, given the similarity between the two investments concerned, the Italian authorities must present, for a period of 10 years, an annual report on the activities of the new firm, giving details of its output. The information given in these reports too may be verified by the Commission.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

- (18) The Commission finds that the aid for the construction of the new shipyard at Oristano complies with the provisions of Law No 488/92, as approved by the Commission, and is compatible with Directive 90/684/EEC; it also finds that the aid planned for the construction of the shipyard at Belvedere Marittimo

complies with the provisions of Law No 488/92 and is not subject to prior authorisation by the Commission,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The State aid amounting to ITL 53,4 billion which Italy plans to implement under Law No 488/92 for the construction of a new shipyard at Oristano is compatible with the common market pursuant to Article 87(2)(a) of the Treaty and Directive 90/684/EEC.

Implementation of the aid is accordingly authorised provided that the closure of the Clemna shipyard at La Spezia is definitive and irreversible.

Article 2

The State aid amounting to ITL 54,4 billion which Italy plans to implement for the construction of a new shipyard at Belvedere Marittimo is not subject to prior authorisation by the Commission pursuant to Directive 90/684/EEC, since the vessels to be built there have a gross registered tonnage of less than 100 t or, in the case of tugs, a power rating of less than 365 kW.

Article 3

The Italian Government shall transmit to the Commission each year, for a period of 10 years, a report on:

- (a) the activities carried out on the site of the Clemna shipyard at La Spezia;
- (b) the output of the Belvedere Marittimo shipyard.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Italian Republic.

Done at Brussels, 16 November 1999.

For the Commission

Mario MONTI

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 March 2000

recognising in principle the completeness of the dossier submitted for detailed examination with a view to the possible inclusion of RPA407213 (fenamidone) in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant-protection products on the market

(notified under document number C(2000) 699)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/251/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant-protection products on the market ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Directive 1999/80/EC ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 6(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Directive 91/414/EEC (hereinafter referred to as 'the Directive') provides for the compilation of a Community list of active substances authorised for use in plant protection products.

(2) Rhône-Poulenc Ag., submitted a dossier on the active substance RPA407213 (fenamidone) to the French authorities on 15 September 1999.

(3) The said authorities informed the Commission of the results of an initial examination of the dossier to ensure that it provides all the information laid down in Annex II and, for at least one plant protection product containing the active substance concerned, in Annex III to the Directive. Subsequently, in accordance with Article 6(2), the applicant submitted the dossier to the Commission and other Member States.

(4) The dossier on RPA407213 (fenamidone) was referred to the Standing Committee on Plant Health on 17 January 2000.

(5) Article 6(3) of the Directive requires official confirmation at Community level that each dossier fulfils the requirements on information laid down in Annex II and, for at least one plant protection product containing the active substance concerned, in Annex III to the Directive.

(6) Such confirmation is necessary to permit a detailed examination of the dossier and to allow Member States to grant provisional authorisation for plant protection products containing the active substance concerned

while complying with the conditions laid down in Article 8(1) of the Directive and, in particular, the condition relating to the detailed assessment of the active substance and the plant protection product in the light of the requirements laid down by the Directive.

(7) Such a decision does not rule out a request for further information from the applicant where, during the detailed examination, it is found that such information is required in order to reach a decision.

(8) The Member States and the Commission agree that France will carry out a detailed examination of the dossier on RPA407213 (fenamidone).

(9) France will send the Commission an assessment report setting out the findings of the examination accompanied by any recommendations for inclusion or non-inclusion and any conditions relating thereto as soon as possible but within one year. Following receipt of the report, the detailed examination will be continued by all the Member States in the Standing Committee on Plant Health.

(10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plant Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The following dossier satisfies in principle the information requirements laid down in Annex II and, for at least one plant protection product containing the active substance concerned, in Annex III to the Directive, taking account of the intended uses:

the dossier submitted by Rhône-Poulenc Ag., to the Commission and the Member States with a view to the inclusion of RPA407213 (fenamidone) as an active substance in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC and referred to the Standing Committee on Plant Health on 17 January 2000.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 210, 10.8.1999, p. 13.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 17 March 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION DECISION
of 17 March 2000
amending Decision 1999/710/EC on drawing up provisional lists of third country establishments
from which the Member States authorise imports of minced meat and meat preparations

(notified under document number C(2000) 700)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/252/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 95/408/EEC of 22 June 1995 on the conditions for drawing up, for an interim period, provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import certain products of animal origin, fishery products or live bivalve molluscs ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Decision 98/603/EC ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 2(1) and Article 7 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) A provisional list of establishments producing minced meat and meat preparations has been drawn up by Commission Decision 1997/710/EC ⁽³⁾.
- (2) Brazil, Chile, Hungary, Israel, Poland and Thailand have sent a list of establishments producing minced meat and meat preparations and for which the responsible authorities certify that the establishments are in accordance with the Community rules.
- (3) Provisional lists of establishments producing minced meat and meat preparations can thus be drawn up for Brazil, Chile, Hungary, Israel, Poland and Thailand in accordance with the procedure laid down in Decision 95/408/EEC in respect of certain countries.
- (4) Some third countries have not sent their establishment lists in time; therefore it is necessary to grant as a transitional measure an additional period to import meat preparations from these third countries in order not to interrupt trade.

- (5) In this event the Member States will be responsible therefore for ensuring themselves that the establishments from which they import meat preparations meet the requirements which are not less stringent than the Community requirements.
- (6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The text of the Annex of this Decision is added to the Annex of Decision 1999/710/EC.
2. Concerning third countries other than those in the Annex of Decision 1999/710/EC, Member States may authorise establishments for import of meat preparations up to 1 September 2000

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 17 March 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 243, 11.10.1995, p. 17.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 289, 28.10.1998, p. 36.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 281, 4.11.1999, p. 82.

ANEXO — BILAG — ANHANG — ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ — ANNEX — ANNEXE — ALLEGATO — BIJLAGE — ANEXO —
LIITE — BILAGA

País: Brasil — Land: Brasilien — Land: Brasilien — Χώρα: Βραζιλία — Country: Brasil — Pays: Brésil — Paese:
Brasile — Land: Brazilië — País: Brasil — Maa: Brasília — Land: Brasilien

1	2	3	4	5	6
SIF 1	SADIA S/A	Concordia	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 87	PERDIGÃO AGROINDUSTRIAL S/A	Videira	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 104	Sadia S/A	Chapeco	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 237	Pena Branca Avicultura S/A	Roca Salos	Rio Grande do Sul	MP	7
SIF 466	Perdigão Agroindustrial S/A	Capinzal	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 516	Copacol — Cooperativa Agrícola Consolata Ltda	Cafelândia	Paraná	MP	7
SIF 544	Pena Branca Avicultura S/A	Caxias do Sul	Rio Grande do Sul	MP	7
SIF 576	Seara Alimentos S/A	Itapiranga	Santa Catarina	MP	
SIF 601	Chapeco — Campanhia Industrial de Alimentos	Xaxim	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 716	Sadia S/A	Toledo	Panamá	MP	7
SIF 922	Frangosul S/A — Agro Avícola Industrial	Passo Fundo	Rio Grande do Sul	MP	7
SIF 1155	Agro Avícola Veneto	Nova Veneza	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 1661	Companhia de Alimentos	Lajeado	Rio Grande do Sul	MP	7
SIF 1798	Coop. Central Oeste Catarinense Ltda	Quilombo	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 1976	Sadia S/A	São Paulo	São Paulo	MP	7
SIF 1985	Sadia S/A	Dois Vizinhos	Paraná	MP	7
SIF 2014	Perdigão Agroindustrial S/A	Marau	Rio Grande do Sul	MP	7
SIF 2032	Frangosul S/A — Agro Avícola Industrial	Montenegro	Rio Grande do Sul	MP	
SIF 2172	Seara Alimentos Ltda	Forquilha	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 2435	Seara Alimentos	Jaragua do Sul	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 2518	Sadia S/A	Francisco Beltrão	Paraná	MP	7
SIF 3125	Coop. Central Oeste Catarinense	Maravilha	Santa Catarina	MP	7
SIF 3595	Seara Alimentos S/A	Sidrolândia	Mato Grosso do Sul	MP	7

País: Chile — Land: Chile — Land: Chile — Χώρα: Χιλή — Country: Chile — Pays: Chili — Paese: Cile — Land:
Chili — País: Chile — Maa: Chile — Land: Chile

1	2	3	4	5	6
07	Faenadora de Aves Agrícola Ariztia	El Paico	Metropolitana	MP	7
08	Faenadora de Aves San Vicente Agrosuper Ltda	San Vicente de Tagua Tagua	VI	MP	7
09	Faenadora de Pavos Sopraval	La Calera	V	MP	7

**País: Hungria — Land: Ungarn — Land: Ungarn — Χώρα: Ουγγαρία — Country: Hungary — Pays: Hongrie —
Paese: Ungheria — Land: Hongarije — País: Hungria — Maa: Unkari — Land: Ungern**

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Gyulai Húskombinát Rt.	Gyula	Békés	MM, MP	7
10	Ringa Húsipari Rt. Kapuvári Gyára	Kapuvár	Győr-Sopron-Moson	MP	7
43	Integral Áfész Baromfifeldolgozó	Kiskunfélegyháza	Bács-Kiskun	MP	7
48	FOTK Rt.	Jászberény	Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	MP	7
50	Mavad-Vecsés Vadfeldolgozó Kft.	Vecsés	Budapest	MM, MP	7
52	HER-CSI HÚS Kft.	Hernád	Pest	MP	7
62	Pini Hungary Kft.	Kaposvár	Somogy	MM	7
68	Öreglaki Vadfeldolgozó Kft.	Öreglak	Somogy	MP	7
101	Bábikba Rt. Békéscsabai Baromfifeldolgozó Gyára	Békéscsaba	Béké	MP	7
103	HAJDÚ-BÉT Rt.	Debrecen	Hajdú-Bihar	MP	7
104	Bábolna Baromfi Győr Kft. Baromfifeldolgozó Üzeme	Győr	Győr-Sopron-Moson	MP	7
105	Halasi Csirke Kft.	Kiskunhalas	Bács-Kiskun	MP	7
106	Bábolna Rt. Kecskeméti Baromfifeldolgozó Gyára	Kecskemét	Bács-Kiskun	MP	7
107	Kiskunhalasi Baromfifeldolgozó Rt.	Kiskunhalas	Bács-Kiskun	MP	7
108	Merian Rt.	Orosháza	Békés	MP	7
109	Sága Foods Rt.	Sárvár	Vas	MP	7
110	Hungerit Baromfifeldolgozó és Ékekluszeruóaru Rt.	Szentes	Csongrád	MP	7
111	HAJDÚ-BÉT Rt.	Törökszentmiklós	Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	MP	7
112	HAJDÚ-BÉT Rt.	Kisvárd	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	MP	7
114	Zalabaromfi Feldolgozó és Kereskedelmi Rt.	Zalaegerszeg	Zala	MP	7
119	HAJDÚ-BÉT Rt.	Zagyvarékas	Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	MP	7
126	eFeF Kft.	Pécs	Baranya	MP	7
129	HAJDÚ-BÉT Rt. Mezökovácsházi Gyára	Mezőkovácsháza	Békés	MP	7
130	GALLICOOP Rt.	Szarvas	Békés	MP	7
148	LOBA Kft.	Bábolna	Komárom-Esztergom	MP	7
152	Pesti Baromfifeldolgozó Rt.	Budapest	Budapest	MP	7
159	GOOL-ROLL PUSKÁS Kft.	Szentendre	Pest	MP	7
161	Keletvad Kft.	Újfehértó	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	MP	7
164	Hungerit Baromfifeldolgozó és Élelmiszeripari Rt.	Szentes	Csongrád	MP	7
183	SáGa Foods Rt.	Sárvár	Vas	MP	7
326	Lantos Kft.	Jászberény	Jász-Nagyjyb-Szikbij	MM, MP	7

País: Israel — Land: Israel — Land: Israel — Χώρα: Ισραήλ — Country: Israel — Pays: Israël — Paese: Israele — Land: Israel — País: Israel — Maa: Israel — Land: Israel

1	2	3	4	5	6
103	MEAT IND. MAOF	Beer Tuvia	Rechovot	MP	7
118	HOD HEFER MEAT IND.	Shomron	Hadera	MP	7

País: Polonia — Land: Polen — Land: Polen — Χώρα: Πολωνία — Country: Poland — Pays: Pologne — Paese: Polonia — Land: Polen — País: Polónia — Maa: Puola — Land: Polen

1	2	3	4	5	6
690	INDYKPOL	Olsztyn	Olsztyn	MP	7

País: Tailandia — Land: Thailand — Land: Thailand — Χώρα: Ταϊλάνδη — Country: Thailand — Pays: Thaïlande — Paese: Thailandia — Land: Thailand — País: Tailândia — Maa: Thaimaa — Land: Thailand

1	2	3	4	5	6
TH-03	Bangkok Livestock Processing Co. Ltd	Minbury	Bangkok	MP	7
TH-04	Saha Farm Co Ltd	Bangkapi	Bangkok	MP	7
TH-06	Laemthong Food Products Co. Ltd	Samplan	Nakhonpathom	MP	7
TH-07	Central Poultry Processing Co. Ltd	Rangsit	Pathumthanee	MP	7
TH-08	Srithai Food & Beverage Public Co. Ltd	Amphoe Bangplee	Samutprakarn	MP	7
TH-10	Better Foods Co. Ltd	Krathoomban	Samutsakhon	MP	7
TH-11	GFPT Public Co. Ltd	Amphoe Bangplee	Samutpragarn	MP	7
TH-14	Bangkok Ranch Public Co. Ltd	Amphoe Bangplee	Samutpragarn	MP	7
TH-18	Bangkok Farm Co. Ltd	Prakanon	Bangkok	MP	7
TH-23	Bangkok Produce Merchandising Public Co. Ltd	Amphoe Bangplee	Saraburi	MP	7
TH-25	Sunek Food Ltd	Wangmuang	Saraburi	MP	7
TH-32	Sun Valley (Tahiland) Co. Ltd	Amphoe Pra Putthabat	Saraburi	MP	7
TH-34	Golden Foods International Co. Ltd	Lumloogka	Pathumthani	MP	7
TH-36	Bangkok Produce Merchandising Public Co. Ltd			MP	7
TH-44	Saha Farm Co. Ltd	Amphoe Chaibadan	Lopburi	MP	7
TH-49	B. Foods Product International Co. Ltd	Amphoe Phatthana Nikhom	Lopburi	MP	7
TH-51	Kaona Poultry Co. Ltd	Muang	Ubonratchathani	MP	7
TH-52	Yoo Soong Industry Co. Ltd	Muang	Chonburi	MP	7
TH-53	Golden Goods International Co. Ltd	Amphoe Ongkarak	Nakhonnayok	MP	7
TH-70	Leamthong Poultry Co. Ltd	Song-Nern District	Nakhon Ratchasima	MP	7
TH-79	Panus Poultry Co. Ltd	Panusnikhorn	Chonburi	MP	7

COMMISSION DECISION
of 20 March 2000
amending Decision 97/569/EC on drawing up provisional lists of third country establishments from
which the Member States authorise imports of meat products

(notified under document number C(2000) 698)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/253/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 95/408/EC of 22 June 1995 on the conditions for drawing up, for an interim period, provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import certain products of animal origin, fishery products or live bivalve molluscs ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Decision 98/603/EC ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Provisional lists of establishments in third countries producing meat products have been drawn up by Commission Decision 97/569/EC ⁽³⁾ as last amended by Decision 1999/336/EC ⁽⁴⁾.
- (2) Canada has sent a list of establishments producing meat products and for which the responsible authorities certify that the establishments are in accordance with the Community rules.
- (3) A provisional list of establishments producing meat products can thus be drawn up for Canada. Commission

Decision 97/569/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The text of the Annex to this Decision is added to the Annex to Decision 97/569/EC.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 March 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

ANEXO — BILAG — ANHANG — ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ — ANNEX — ANNEXE — ALLEGATO — BIJLAGE — ANEXO —
 LIITE — BILAGA

‘País: Canadá — Land: Canada — Land: Kanada — Χώρα: Καναδάς — Country: Canada — Pays: Canada — Paese:
 Canada — Land: Canada — País: Canadá — Maa: Kanada — Land: Kanada

1	2	3	4	5
63	Northern Goose Processors Ltd	Teulon	Manitoba	PMP,6'

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 243, 11.10.1995, p. 17.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 289, 28.10.1998, p. 36.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 234, 26.8.1997, p. 16.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 127, 21.5.1999, p. 30.

COMMISSION DECISION
of 20 March 2000
amending Decision 94/984/EC laying down animal health conditions and veterinary certificates for
the importation of fresh poultry meat from third countries in respect of Argentina

(notified under document number C(2000) 703)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/254/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/494/EEC of 26 June 1991 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of fresh poultry meat ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Directive 1999/89/EC ⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 11 and 12 thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision 94/984/EC ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Decision 1999/549/EC ⁽⁴⁾, established the animal health conditions and the veterinary certificates for imports of fresh poultry meat from certain third countries. Two different certificates, model A and model B are laid down. Their use depends on the Newcastle disease situation in the country concerned.
- (2) Argentina is listed in Annex I to Decision 94/984/EC as a third country which is allowed to use the model B certificate laid down in Annex II to that Decision.
- (3) An inspection in July 1998 was carried out by the Commission services in Argentina to review the Newcastle disease situation and additional information has been received from that country.
- (4) It appears, in accordance with the results of that inspection and the submitted information, that the Newcastle disease situation in Argentina has improved.
- (5) Argentina can comply with the requirements of the model A certificate laid down in Annex II to Decision 94/984/EC.
- (6) This Decision shall apply for fresh poultry meat certified as from 1 April 2000.
- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Annex I to Decision 94/984/EC the line

‘AR | Argentina | | B ⁽³⁾’

is replaced by:

‘AR | Argentina | | A’

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 268, 24.9.1991, p. 35.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 300, 23.11.1999, p. 17.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 378, 21.12.1994, p. 11.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 209, 7.8.1999, p. 36.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply for fresh poultry meat certified as from 1 April 2000.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 March 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 March 2000

amending for the second time Decision 1999/789/EC concerning certain protection measures relating to African swine fever in Portugal

(notified under document number C(2000) 832)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/255/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Directive 92/118/EEC ⁽²⁾, and, in particular, Article 10(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 89/662/EEC of 11 December 1989 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Directive 92/118/EEC, and in particular, Article 9(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 80/215/EEC ⁽⁴⁾ of 22 January 1980 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products, as last amended by Directive 91/687/EEC ⁽⁵⁾, and in particular Article 7a(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) An outbreak of African swine fever occurred in Portugal, region of Alentejo, municipality of Almodovar on 15 November 1999.
- (2) By Decision 1999/789/EC ⁽⁶⁾ the Commission adopted certain disease control measures to prevent the spreading of the disease.
- (3) By Decision 2000/64/EC ⁽⁷⁾ the Commission amended Decision 1999/789/EC, to take into account the evolution of the situation.
- (4) By Decision 2000/62/EC ⁽⁸⁾ the Commission approved a plan for the surveillance of African swine fever submitted by Portugal, including further disease control measures.

- (5) In the light of the favourable evolution of the situation Decision 1999/789/EC must be amended for the second time.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Article 2 of Decision 1999/789/EC is replaced by the following article:

‘Article 2

1. Live pigs originating from a holding situated in the areas described in the Annex can not be sent to other areas of Portugal unless the animals:

- come from a holding where no live pigs have been introduced during the 30-day period immediately prior to the dispatch of the pigs in question from holdings located in the areas described in the Annex,
- have been included in a pre-movement serological testing programme carried out within 10 days prior to transport where no antibodies to the African swine fever virus have been detected; the pre-movement testing programme for the consignment in question must be designed to give approximately 95 % confidence of detecting seropositive animals at a 5 % prevalence level,
- have undergone a clinical examination on the holding of origin within 24 hours prior to transport. All pigs on the holding of origin shall be examined and related facilities must be inspected. The animals shall be identified by eartags at the holding of origin so that they can be traced back to the holding of origin,
- have been transported directly from the holding of origin to the holding or slaughterhouse of destination. The means of transport shall be cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant before loading and immediately after unloading.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 49.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 13.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 47, 21.2.1980, p. 4.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 377, 31.12.1991, p. 161.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 310, 4.12.1999, p. 71.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 22, 27.1.2000, p. 67.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 22, 27.1.2000, p. 65.

2. By derogation from paragraph 1, second indent, the official veterinarian may decide that in case of slaughter pigs the pre-movement serological tests referred to in paragraph 1 are carried out at slaughter, if previous serological controls carried out in the holding of origin, in relation to the implementation of this Decision or of the surveillance plan approved by Decision 2000/62/EEC, have given negative result.

3. Live pigs sent to other areas of Portugal in accordance with paragraph 1 must be accompanied during transport to the holding or slaughterhouse of destination by a health document issued by an official veterinarian.'

Article 2

In Article 6 of Decision 1999/789/EC as amended by Decision 2000/64/EC the date '31 March 2000' is replaced by the date '31 May 2000'.

Article 3

The Member States shall amend the measures which they apply to trade so as to bring them into compliance with this Decision. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 28 March 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission
