

Official Journal

of the European Communities

ISSN 0378-6978

L 236

Volume 43

20 September 2000

English edition

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**COUNCIL COMMON POSITION
of 18 September 2000
on Rwanda**

(2000/558/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Article 2

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

Whereas:

- (1) By Common Position 1999/452/CFSP⁽¹⁾ the Council defined the objectives and priorities of the European Union vis-à-vis Rwanda.
- (2) By Joint Action 96/250/CFSP⁽²⁾ the Council nominated a Special Envoy for the African Great Lakes Region.
- (3) In the light of developments in Rwanda since 1999, Common Position 1999/452/CFSP should be revised,

HAS DEFINED THIS COMMON POSITION:

Article 1

The objectives and priorities of the European Union in its relations with Rwanda are to encourage, stimulate and support the ongoing process of:

- (a) recovery from genocide and the promotion of national reconciliation,
- (b) reconstruction and development,
- (c) protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- (d) transition to democracy.

Insofar as regional instability may jeopardise the achievement of these goals, the European Union shall encourage the Government of Rwanda to work, in particular through its foreign policy, towards the achievement of regional stability, as it does with all other parties to conflicts in the region.

The European Union affirms that progress in the areas referred to in Article 1 is primarily the responsibility of the Government of Rwanda. In order to support and encourage its efforts, the European Union shall pursue a constructive and critical dialogue with the Government of Rwanda, including through the offices of its Special Envoy to the African Great Lakes Region, on the basis of the following provisions.

Article 3

With regard to the Government of Rwanda's regional foreign and security policy, the European Union:

- (a) calls on the Government of Rwanda to keep the commitments it made, *inter alia*, in Lusaka (July 1999) and Kampala (April 2000) in favour of a negotiated, peaceful and rapid settlement of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolution 1304 of 16 June 2000;
- (b) considers it most important that the Rwandan troops present in the DRC and the other warring parties should abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and in connection with the protection of human rights.

Article 4

With regard to the situation within Rwanda, the efforts of the European Union shall be based on the following principles:

- (a) concerning reconciliation and power-sharing, the European Union shall encourage and support reconciliation among all Rwandans within and outside Rwanda, through dialogue between all groups which reject violence and genocide. Such dialogue must focus on power-sharing, national reconstruction and minority protection. In this context, the European Union considers it important for the Commission on Reconciliation and National Unity to be independent, representative of the Rwandan community, and to have a clearly defined programme of action that the European Union could possibly support;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 178, 14.7.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 87, 4.4.1996, p. 1. Joint Action last extended by Joint Action 2000/347/CFSP (OJ L 122, 24.5.2000), p. 6.

(b) concerning democratisation, the European Union:

- stresses the importance of respecting the political balance laid down in Rwanda's basic law, including the Arusha agreements. It encourages the Government of Rwanda and the authorities responsible for drawing up a new constitution, designed to create a new institutional framework for the country, to guarantee effective protection of the civil and political rights of Rwandans, preservation of social cohesion and the safeguarding of fundamental rights and freedoms,
- urges the Government of Rwanda to specify its timetable for democratisation and to prepare actively for holding of the various electoral processes which must take place by the end of the transitional period in 2003 at the latest. More specifically, it calls on the Government of Rwanda to hold the elections at local authority level that the Government has planned as soon as possible, so that they contribute towards involving the people more in the decision-making process. In this context, it encourages the Government of Rwanda to establish appropriate arrangements and supervision for each of these elections. These arrangements, while taking into account the problem of illiteracy, should establish a voting mechanism that will ensure free and fair elections, guaranteeing equal rights for all Rwandans; the participation of civil society; public debate; the right of free expression; transparency with regard to the whole electoral process and electoral legislation; the nomination of an independent body to prepare and oversee the entire electoral process and an opportunity for all sectors of society to express their views. The European Union shall examine possibilities of supporting the elaboration of such an electoral mechanism,
- encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue to extend the responsibilities and powers of the local authorities elected in 1999, so as to ensure the participation of the local population in the political and development process, and shall remain prepared in principle to support this process by appropriate means,
- encourages the Government of Rwanda to strengthen and implement the process of decentralisation initiated in May 2000;

(c) concerning the judicial system and the establishment of traditional justice ('Gacaca'), the European Union:

- stresses the importance, and assesses the difficulty, of setting up a judicial administration which would help speed up the reconciliation process throughout the country,
- acknowledges that the 'Gacaca' system may, under certain conditions, serve this purpose,
- encourages the Government of Rwanda to bring the 'Gacaca' system into line with international human rights standards,
- encourages the 'Gacaca' authorities to establish clemency as a general working principle and to safeguard rights guaranteed by law both to those accused, particularly as regards defence and appeals and to civil parties,

- will study, with others, how possible support for administration of the 'Gacaca' system might be provided in a well-coordinated manner,
- encourages the Rwandan authorities to continue raising awareness, among the population in general and genocide survivors in particular, of the need to accept these principles, in order to deal simultaneously with the problem of impunity and to reach a pragmatic solution to the alarming problem of a large prison population awaiting trial under precarious conditions of detention,
- encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue its efforts to reduce the prison population and its campaign to raise awareness, including by speeding up implementation of its decision, announced in 1998, to release prisoners against whom there are no files, or incomplete files,
- supports the work of the International Criminal Tribunal in Arusha, and in particular renews its efforts to ensure that all States surrender to the Tribunal all those indicted by it for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. It shall seek continued improvement of the Tribunal's administrative effectiveness,
- encourages the courts and the Government of Rwanda to show the utmost restraint with regard to the imposition and execution of the death penalty, with the highly desirable prospect of its total abolition, and to comply fully with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to observe other international safeguards concerning the death penalty;

(d) concerning villagisation policy, the European Union encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue the critical reflection on the subject that it has already initiated, and to proceed with the policy only after careful planning, using a decentralised and participatory approach, and after carrying out prior impact studies, pilot projects and campaigns to raise awareness among the population and to assure an equitable redistribution and management of land, in order to avoid resettlement, hastened by security considerations, bringing about human rights violations, results contrary to the desired effects and causes for further discord;

(e) concerning human rights, the European Union:

- encourages and supports efforts initiated by the Government of Rwanda to protect and promote the human rights of all Rwandans, including through ensuring the independent and effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission and by continuing to work with the Special Representative of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,
- encourages the National Human Rights Commission to continue working with the non-governmental organisations concerned and to implement without further delay its programme of action, to which the Union could possibly make a contribution;

- (f) concerning economic development and cooperation, the European Union continues to support the efforts of the Government of Rwanda to promote inclusive economic development and to extend progress achieved on the macroeconomic field as instruments for peace and stability. In particular, it encourages it to make additional efforts with regard to good governance.

Noting the continued Rwandan presence in the DRC, motivated from the Rwandan point of view by security concerns, the European Union considers that action by the Government of Rwanda with a view to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the DRC, under the terms of the Lusaka and Kampala agreements and in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolution 1304, is likely, subject to detailed examination by the competent bodies, to influence the quality of the cooperation links between the European Union and Rwanda;

- (g) concerning reintegration into Rwandan society of genocide survivors, demobilised soldiers and all other displaced people, the European Union encourages and supports efforts by the Government of Rwanda to facilitate this process, including through cooperation with relevant international organisations. The European Union is convinced that there can be no military solution to the question of Rwandan armed groups driven back to the DRC. It demands that all States in the region refrain from giving military support to these groups; it calls on the Rwandan authorities to put into sustained and visible effect their declared undertaking to receive in Rwanda, in complete security, those Rwandan rebels fighting in the DRC who are not implicated in crimes of genocide or war crimes. The European Union is prepared to contribute to the implementation of economic and social reintegration programmes determined for this purpose.

Article 5

The Council notes that the Commission intends to direct its action towards achieving the objectives and priorities of this Common Position, where appropriate by pertinent Community measures.

Article 6

In implementing this Common Position, the European Union will cooperate closely with the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and other interested organisations.

Article 7

The implementation of this Common Position will be monitored regularly. It will be reviewed within 12 months.

Article 8

This Common Position shall replace Common Position 1999/452/CFSP of 12 July 1999.

Article 9

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

Article 10

This Common Position shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 18 September 2000.

For the Council

The President

H. VÉDRINE

I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1975/2000
of 19 September 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 20 September 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 19 September 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 19 September 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	85,5
	999	85,5
0707 00 05	052	85,5
	628	145,8
	999	115,7
0709 90 70	052	67,1
	999	67,1
0805 30 10	052	70,1
	388	57,8
	524	69,9
	528	59,6
	999	64,4
0806 10 10	052	80,4
	064	71,8
	400	188,3
	999	113,5
0808 10 20, 0808 10 50, 0808 10 90	388	57,6
	400	60,1
	512	87,9
	800	186,6
	804	74,8
	999	93,4
0808 20 50	052	86,6
	064	55,3
	999	70,9
0809 30 10, 0809 30 90	052	129,0
	624	190,8
	999	159,9
0809 40 05	052	55,1
	060	60,3
	064	58,0
	066	46,6
	068	51,1
	400	125,4
	624	249,9
	999	92,3

⁽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 1976/2000**of 19 September 2000****amending Regulation (EC) No 1667/98 increasing to 732 191 tonnes the quantity of barley held by the Swedish intervention agency for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1666/2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1630/2000 ⁽⁴⁾, lays down the procedures and conditions for the disposal of cereals held by the intervention agencies.
- (2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1667/98 ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1083/2000 ⁽⁶⁾, opened a standing invitation to tender for the export of 665 788 tonnes of barley held by the Swedish intervention agency. Sweden informed the Commission of the intention of its intervention agency to increase by 66 403 tonnes the quantity for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened. The total quantity of barley held by the Swedish intervention agency for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened should be increased to 732 191 tonnes.
- (3) This increase in the quantity put out to tender makes it necessary to alter the list of regions and quantities in

store. Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1667/98 must therefore be amended.

- (4) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1667/98 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

'Article 2

1. The invitation to tender shall cover a maximum of 732 191 tonnes of barley to be exported to all third countries with the exception of the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.

2. The regions in which the 732 191 tonnes of barley are stored are stated in Annex I to this Regulation.'

2. Annex I is replaced by the Annex hereto.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 19 September 2000.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1.7.1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 193, 29.7.2000, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 191, 31.7.1993, p. 76.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 187, 26.7.2000, p. 24.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 211, 29.7.1998, p. 17.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 122, 24.5.2000, p. 41.

ANNEX

ANNEX I

(tonnes)

Place of storage	Quantity
Ättersta	7 584
Boarp	2 480
Brännarp	2 624
Broddbo 1	5 997
Broddbo 2	6 076
Broddbo 3	4 110
Djurön	122 524
Ervalla	934
Falun	878
Falun 1	884
Fammarp	19 046
Funbo-Lövsta	6 579
Gamleby	2 835
Gardsjö	2 565
Gävle	10 847
Gimo	23 901
Gistad	3 761
Gistad 1	3 749
Gullspang	2 391
Halmstad (Engströms)	4 659
Hästholmen	5 089
Helsingborg	73 933
Hova	12 981
Kalmar	15 738
Karlshamn	99 435
Katrineholm	2 068
Köping	76 440
Laholm	2 737
Mariestad	1 956
Mjölby	1 804
Moraby	1 637
Moraby 1	1 937
Motala	2 807
Norrtälje	10 014
Ormesta	17 988
Österbybruk	10 878
Otterbäcken	4 075
Rimforsa	21 449
Rök	4 994
Signestorp	4 517
Simonstorp	5 022
Skivarp	17 301
Söraker	13 053
Stallarholmen	2 062
Stavreviken	1 479
Stockholm (Kvarnholmen)	46 005
Tjustorp	19 849
Värnamo	5 742
Velanda	10 780
Vimmerby	3 997

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1977/2000**of 19 September 2000****amending Regulation (EC) No 1759/98 increasing to 1 477 420 tonnes the quantity of barley held by the United Kingdom intervention agency for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1666/2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1630/2000 ⁽⁴⁾, lays down the procedures and conditions for the disposal of cereals held by the intervention agencies.
- (2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1759/98 ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1458/2000 ⁽⁶⁾, opened a standing invitation to tender for the export of 1 476 214 tonnes of barley held by the United Kingdom intervention agency. The United Kingdom informed the Commission of the intention of its intervention agency to increase by 1 206 tonnes the quantity for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened. The total quantity of barley held by the United Kingdom intervention agency for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened should be increased to 1 477 420 tonnes.
- (3) This increase in the quantity put out to tender makes it necessary to alter the list of regions and quantities in

store. Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1759/98 must therefore be amended.

- (4) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1759/98 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

'Article 2

1. The invitation to tender shall cover a maximum of 1 477 420 tonnes of barley to be exported to all third countries with the exception of the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.

2. The regions in which the 1 477 420 tonnes of barley are stored are stated in Annex I to this Regulation.'

2. Annex I is replaced by the Annex hereto.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 19 September 2000.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1.7.1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 193, 29.7.2000, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 191, 31.7.1993, p. 76.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 187, 26.7.2000, p. 24.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, p. 8.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 164, 5.7.2000, p. 3.

ANNEX

'ANNEX I

(tonnes)

Place of storage	Quantity
Aberdeenshire	42 146
Angus	9 684
Bedfordshire	15 041
Berwickshire	71 344
Cambridgeshire	16 761
Cheshire	2 727
Dorset	22 436
Dumfries	35 221
East Lothian	72 136
Edinburgh	33 570
Essex	8 760
Fife	21 791
Gloucester	25 314
Gloucestershire	65 008
Grimsby	235
Keith	7 852
Kidderminster	1 277
Kirkcaldy	7 508
Leicestershire	11 753
Lincolnshire	201 064
Mid Lothian	12 074
Norfolk	92 235
North Humberside	65 066
North Lincolnshire	49 246
Northampton	2 510
Northamptonshire	26 888
Northumberland	10 040
Norwich	44 789
Nottinghamshire	20 700
Pocklington York	12 876
Salisbury	45 901
Shropshire	40 515
Somerset	8 240
Strathclyde	110 735
Suffolk	35 431
Taunton	13 744
Tayside	40 390
West Sussex	31 075
Wiltshire	10 911
Worcestershire	51 890
York	75 135
Yorkshire	5 401'

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1978/2000**of 19 September 2000****amending Regulation (EC) No 2198/98 increasing to 8 515 422 tonnes the quantity of barley held by the German intervention agency for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in cereals ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1666/2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1630/2000 ⁽⁴⁾, lays down the procedures and conditions for the disposal of cereals held by the intervention agencies.
- (2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 2198/98 ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1580/2000 ⁽⁶⁾, opened a standing invitation to tender for the export of 8 050 021 tonnes of barley held by the German intervention agency. Germany informed the Commission of the intention of its intervention agency to increase by 465 401 tonnes the quantity for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened. The total quantity of barley held by the German intervention agency for which a standing invitation to tender for export has been opened should be increased to 8 515 422 tonnes.
- (3) This increase in the quantity put out to tender makes it necessary to alter the list of regions and quantities in

store. Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2198/98 must therefore be amended.

- (4) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 2198/98 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

'Article 2

1. The invitation to tender shall cover a maximum of 8 515 422 tonnes of barley for export to third countries, with the exception of the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.

2. The regions in which the 8 515 422 tonnes of barley are stored are stated in Annex I to this Regulation.'

2. Annex I is replaced by the Annex hereto.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 19 September 2000.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 181, 1.7.1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 193, 29.7.2000, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 191, 31.7.1993, p. 76.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 187, 26.7.2000, p. 24.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 277, 14.10.1998, p. 9.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 181, 20.7.2000, p. 43.

ANNEX

ANNEX I

(tonnes)	
Place of storage	Quantity
Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg/Niedersachsen/ Bremen/Nordrhein-Westfalen	2 771 729
Hessen/Rheinland-Pfalz/Baden-Württemberg/ Saarland/Bayern	780 519
Berlin/Brandenburg/Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	2 033 203
Sachsen/Sachsen-Anhalt/Thüringen	2 929 971'

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1979/2000
of 19 September 2000**

**on the issue of import licences for rice originating in the ACP States and the overseas countries
and territories against applications submitted in the first five working days of September 2000
pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2603/97**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/97 of 16 December 1997 laying down the detailed rules of application for the import of rice from the ACP States and for the import of rice from the overseas countries and territories (OCT) ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2731/1999 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 9(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 9(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2603/97, the Commission must decide within 10 days of the final date for notification by the Member States the extent to which applications can be granted and must fix the available quantities for the following tranche and, if necessary, the available quantities for the additional tranche for October.
- (2) Examination of the quantities for which applications have been submitted shows that licences for the September 2000 tranche should be issued for the quant-

ities applied for reduced, where appropriate, by the percentages set out in the Annex hereto,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Import licences for rice against applications submitted during the first five working days of September 2000 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2603/97 and notified to the Commission shall be issued for the quantities applied for reduced, where appropriate, by the percentages set out in the Annex hereto.
2. The available quantities for the additional tranche for October are set out in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 21 September 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 19 September 2000.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 351, 23.12.1997, p. 22.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 328, 22.12.1999, p. 39.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 19 September 2000 on the issue of import licences for rice originating in the ACP States and the overseas countries and territories against applications submitted in the first five working days of September 2000 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2603/97

Reduction percentages to be applied to quantities applied for under the tranche for September 2000 and quantities available for the additional tranche for October:

Origin	Reduction (%)	Quantity available for the additional tranche for October 2000 (t)
ACP (Article 2(1)) — CN codes 1006 10 21 to 1006 10 98, 1006 20 and 1006 30	90,902	—

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

DECISION No 2/2000 OF THE EU-HUNGARY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

of 24 July 2000

adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Republic of Hungary in Community programmes in the fields of training and education

(2000/559/EC)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Having regard to the Additional Protocol in the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part, concerning Hungary's participation in Community programmes ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Articles 1 and 2 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) According to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol, Hungary may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training and education.
- (2) According to Article 2 of the Additional Protocol, the terms and conditions for the participation of Hungary in these activities shall be decided by the Association Council.
- (3) Following Decision No 1/97 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part, of 4 August 1997 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Hungary in Community programmes in the fields of training, youth and education ⁽²⁾, Hungary has been participating in the first phase of the Leonardo da Vinci ⁽³⁾ and Socrates ⁽⁴⁾ Programmes since 1 September 1997, and has expressed the wish to participate in the second phase of the programme,

Article 1

Hungary shall, participate in the second phase of the European Community programmes Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates set out respectively in Council Decision 1999/382/EC of 26 April 1999 establishing the second phase of the Community vocational training action programme 'Leonardo da Vinci' ⁽⁵⁾ and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000 establishing the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education 'Socrates' ⁽⁶⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'Leonardo da Vinci II' and 'Socrates II') according to the terms and conditions set out in Annexes I and II which shall form an integral part of this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply for the duration of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II Programmes, starting from 1 January 2000.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption by the Association Council.

Done at Brussels, 24 July 2000.

For the Association Council

The President

H. VÉDRINE

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 317, 30.12.1995, p. 30.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 260, 23.9.1997, p. 23.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 340, 29.12.1994, p. 8.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 87, 20.4.1995, p. 10. Decision as amended by Decision No 576/98/EC (OJ L 77, 14.3.1998, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 146, 11.6.1999, p. 33.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 28, 3.2.2000, p. 1.

ANNEX I

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY IN THE LEONARDO DA VINCI II, AND SOCRATES II PROGRAMMES

1. Hungary will participate in the activities of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'the Programmes') in conformity, unless otherwise provided in this Decision, with the objectives, criteria, procedures and deadlines as defined in Council Decision 1999/382/EC and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing these Community action programmes.
2. In conformity with the terms of the Articles 5 of the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II and with the provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member State and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates National Agencies adopted by the Commission, Hungary will establish the appropriate structures for the coordinated management of the implementation of the programme actions at national level, and will take the measures needed to ensure the adequate funding of these Agencies which will receive programme grants for their activities. Hungary will take all other necessary steps for the efficient running of the Programmes at national level.
3. To participate in the Programmes, Hungary will pay each year a contribution to the general budget of the European Union according to the arrangements set out in Annex II.

If necessary in order to take account of programme developments, or the evolution of Hungary's absorption capacity, the Association Committee is entitled to adapt this contribution, so as to avoid a budgetary imbalance in the implementation of the Programmes.

4. The terms and conditions for the submission, assessment and selection of applications related to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of Hungary will be the same as those applicable to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of the Community.

Hungarian experts may be taken into consideration by the Commission when appointing independent experts according to the relevant provisions of the decisions establishing the programmes to assist it in project evaluation.

5. With a view to ensuring the Community dimension of the Programmes, in order to be eligible for Community financial support, projects and activities will have to include a partner from at least one of the Member States of the Community.
6. For the mobility activities referred to in Annex I, section III.1 of the Leonardo da Vinci II decision, and for the Socrates decentralised actions, as well as for financial support to the activities of the national agencies set up in accordance with point 2 above, funds will be allocated to Hungary on the basis of the annual programme budget breakdown decided at Community level and the Hungary's contribution to the programme. The maximal amount of financial support to the activities of the national agencies will not exceed 50 % of the budget for the national agencies' work programmes.
7. The Member States of the Community and Hungary will make every effort, within the framework of existing provisions, to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers, trainees, trainers, university administrators, young people and other eligible persons moving between Hungary and the Member States of the Community for the purpose of participating in activities covered by this Decision.
8. Activities covered by this Decision will be exempt from imposition by Hungary of indirect taxes, customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of goods and services intended for use under such activities.
9. Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission of the European Communities and the Court of Auditors of the European Communities in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes pursuant to the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II (Articles 13 and 14 respectively), the participation of Hungary in the Programmes will be continuously monitored on a partnership basis involving the Commission of the European Communities and Hungary. Hungary will submit to the Commission relevant reports and take part in other specific activities set out by the Community in that context.
10. In conformity with the Community's Financial Regulations, contractual arrangements concluded with, or by, entities of Hungary shall provide for controls and audits to be carried out by, or under the authority of, the Commission and the Court of Auditors. As far as financial audits are concerned, they may be carried out with the purpose of controlling such entities' income and expenditures, related to the contractual obligations towards the Community. In a spirit of cooperation and mutual interest, the relevant authorities of Hungary shall provide any reasonable and feasible assistance as may be necessary or helpful under the circumstances to perform such controls and audits.

The provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member States and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and the Socrates national agencies adopted by the Commission will apply to the relations between Hungary, the Commission and the Hungarian national agencies. In the event of irregularity, negligence or fraud imputable to the Hungarian national agencies, the Hungarian authorities shall be responsible for the funds not recovered.

11. Without prejudice to the procedures referred to in Articles 74 of the Decision on Leonardo da Vinci II and Article 8 of the Decision on Socrates II, representatives of Hungary will participate as observers in the Programme Committees, for the points which concern them. These committees shall meet without the presence of representatives of Hungary for the rest of the points, as well as, at the time of voting.
 12. The language to be used in contacts with the Commission, as regards the application process, contracts, reports to be submitted and other administrative arrangements for the Programmes, will be any one of the official languages of the Community.
 13. The Community and Hungary may terminate activities under this Decision at any time upon twelve months' notice in writing. Projects and activities in progress at the time of termination shall continue until their completion under the conditions laid down in this Decision.
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ANNEX II

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY TO LEONARDO DA VINCI II AND SOCRATES II**1. Leonardo da Vinci**

The financial contribution to be paid by Hungary to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme will be the following (in euro):

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
2 558 000	2 629 000	2 806 000	2 930 000	3 054 000	3 214 000	3 338 000

2. Socrates

The financial contribution to be paid by Hungary to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Socrates II Programme in 2000 will be EUR 4 818 000.

The contribution to be paid by Hungary for the following years of the programme will be decided by the Association Council in the course of the year 2000.

3. Hungary will pay the contribution mentioned above, partly from the Hungarian national budget, and partly from Hungary's PHARE National Programme. Subject to a PHARE separate programming procedure, the requested PHARE funds will be transferred to Hungary by means of a separate financing Memorandum. Together with the part coming from Hungary's State budget, these funds will constitute Hungary's national contribution, out of which it will make payments in response to annual calls for funds from the Commission.

4. PHARE funds will be requested according to the following schedule:

- EUR 2 384 000 for the contribution to the Socrates II Programme in 2000,
- for the contribution to the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme, the following yearly amounts (in euro)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1 267 000	1 303 000	1 391 000	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later

The remaining part of the contribution of Hungary will be covered from the Hungarian State budget.

5. The Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽¹⁾ will apply, notably as regards the management of the contribution of Hungary.

Travel costs and subsistence costs incurred by representatives and experts of Hungary for the purposes of taking part as observers in the work of the committees referred to in Annex I, Point 11 or other meetings related to the implementation of the Programmes shall be reimbursed by the Commission on the same basis as and in accordance with the procedures currently in force for non-governmental experts of the Member States of the European Union.

6. After the entry into force of this Decision and at the beginning of each following year, the Commission will send to Hungary a call for funds corresponding to its contribution to each of the respective programmes under this Decision.

This contribution shall be expressed in euro and paid into an euro bank account of the Commission.

Hungary will pay its contribution according to the call for funds:

- by 1 May for the part financed from its national budget, provided that the call for funds is sent by the Commission before 1 April, or at the latest one month after the call for funds is sent if later;
- by 1 May for the part financed from PHARE, provided that the corresponding amounts have been sent to Hungary by this time, or at the latest in a period of 30 days after these funds have been sent to Hungary.

Any delay in the payment of the contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by Hungary on the outstanding amount from the due date. The interest rate corresponds to the rate applied by the European Central Bank, on the due date, for its operations in euro, increased by 1,5 percentage points.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 356, 31.12.1977, p. 1. Financial Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, ECSC, Euratom) No 2673/1999 (OJ L 326, 18.12.1999, p. 1).

**DECISION No 1/2000 OF THE EU-ESTONIA ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
of 24 July 2000**

**adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Republic of Estonia in Community
programmes in the fields of training and education**

(2000/560/EC)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Having regard to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Estonia, of the other part ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 108 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) According to Article 108 of the Europe Agreement and its Annex X, Estonia may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training and education.
- (2) According to the same Article the terms and conditions for the participation of Estonia in these activities shall be decided by the Association Council.
- (3) Following Decision No 3/98 of 29 October 1998 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Estonia, of the other part, of 29 October 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Estonia in Community programmes in the fields of training, youth and education ⁽²⁾, Estonia has been participating in the first phase of the Leonardo da Vinci ⁽³⁾ and Socrates ⁽⁴⁾ Programmes since 1 November 1998, and has expressed the wish to participate in the second phase of the programmes,

Article 1

Estonia shall participate in the second phase of the European Community programmes Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates set out respectively in Council Decision 1999/382/EC of 26 April 1999 establishing the second phase of the Community vocational training action programme 'Leonardo da Vinci' ⁽⁵⁾ and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000 establishing the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education 'Socrates' ⁽⁶⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'Leonardo da Vinci II' and 'Socrates II') according to the terms and conditions set out in Annexes I and II which shall form an integral part of this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply for the duration of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II Programmes, starting from 1 January 2000.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption by the Association Council.

Done at Brussels, 24 July 2000.

For the Association Council

The President

H. VÉDRINE

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 68, 9.3.1998, p. 3.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 307, 17.11.1998, p. 19.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 340, 29.12.1994, p. 8.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 87, 20.4.1995, p. 10. Decision as amended by Decision No 576/98/EC (OJ L 77, 14.3.1998, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 146, 11.6.1999, p. 33.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 28, 3.2.2000, p. 1.

ANNEX I

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA IN THE LEONARDO DA VINCI II, AND SOCRATES II PROGRAMMES

1. Estonia will participate in the activities of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'the Programmes') in conformity, unless otherwise provided in this Decision, with the objectives, criteria, procedures and deadlines as defined in Council Decision 1999/382/EC and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing these Community action programmes.
2. In conformity with the terms of the Articles 5 of the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II and with the provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member State and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates National Agencies adopted by the Commission, Estonia will establish the appropriate structures for the coordinated management of the implementation of the programme actions at national level, and will take the measures needed to ensure the adequate funding of these Agencies which will receive programme grants for their activities. Estonia will take all other necessary steps for the efficient running of the Programmes at national level.
3. To participate in the Programmes, Estonia will pay each year a contribution to the general budget of the European Union according to the arrangements set out in Annex II.

If necessary in order to take account of programme developments, or the evolution of Estonia's absorption capacity, the Association Committee is entitled to adapt this contribution, so as to avoid a budgetary imbalance in the implementation of the Programmes.

4. The terms and conditions for the submission, assessment and selection of applications related to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of Estonia will be the same as those applicable to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of the Community.

Estonian experts may be taken into consideration by the Commission when appointing independent experts according to the relevant provisions of the decisions establishing the programmes to assist it in project evaluation.

5. With a view to ensuring the Community dimension of the Programmes, in order to be eligible for Community financial support, projects and activities will have to include a partner from at least one of the Member States of the Community.
6. For the mobility activities referred to in Annex I, section III.1 of the Leonardo da Vinci II decision, and for the Socrates decentralised actions, as well as for financial support to the activities of the national agencies set up in accordance with point 2 above, funds will be allocated to Estonia on the basis of the annual programme budget breakdown decided at Community level and the Estonia's contribution to the programme. The maximal amount of financial support to the activities of the national agencies will not exceed 50 % of the budget for the national agencies' work programmes.
7. The Member States of the Community and Estonia will make every effort, within the framework of existing provisions, to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers, trainees, trainers, university administrators, young people and other eligible persons moving between Estonia and the Member States of the Community for the purpose of participating in activities covered by this Decision.
8. Activities covered by this Decision will be exempt from imposition by Estonia of indirect taxes, customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of goods and services intended for use under such activities.
9. Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission of the European Communities and the Court of Auditors of the European Communities in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes pursuant to the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II (Articles 13 and 14 respectively), the participation of Estonia in the Programmes will be continuously monitored on a partnership basis involving the Commission of the European Communities and Estonia. Estonia will submit to the Commission relevant reports and take part in other specific activities set out by the Community in that context.
10. In conformity with the Community's Financial Regulations, contractual arrangements concluded with, or by, entities of Estonia shall provide for controls and audits to be carried out by, or under the authority of, the Commission and the Court of Auditors. As far as financial audits are concerned, they may be carried out with the purpose of controlling such entities' income and expenditures, related to the contractual obligations towards the Community. In a spirit of cooperation and mutual interest, the relevant authorities of Estonia shall provide any reasonable and feasible assistance as may be necessary or helpful under the circumstances to perform such controls and audits.

The provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member States and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and the Socrates national agencies adopted by the Commission will apply to the relations between Estonia, the Commission and the Estonian national agencies. In the event of irregularity, negligence or fraud imputable to the Estonian national agencies, the Estonian authorities shall be responsible for the funds not recovered.

11. Without prejudice to the procedures referred to in Articles 74 of the Decision on Leonardo da Vinci II and Article 8 of the Decision on Socrates II, representatives of Estonia will participate as observers in the Programme Committees, for the points which concern them. These committees shall meet without the presence of representatives of Estonia for the rest of the points, as well as, at the time of voting.
 12. The language to be used in contacts with the Commission, as regards the application process, contracts, reports to be submitted and other administrative arrangements for the Programmes, will be any one of the official languages of the Community.
 13. The Community and Estonia may terminate activities under this Decision at any time upon twelve months' notice in writing. Projects and activities in progress at the time of termination shall continue until their completion under the conditions laid down in this Decision.
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ANNEX II

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA TO LEONARDO DA VINCI II AND SOCRATES II**1. Leonardo da Vinci**

The financial contribution to be paid by Estonia to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme will be the following (in euro):

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
837 000	859 000	916 000	956 000	996 000	1 047 000	1 087 000

2. Socrates

The financial contribution to be paid by Estonia to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Socrates II Programme in 2000 will be EUR 659 000.

The contribution to be paid by Estonia for the following years of the programme will be decided by the Association Council in the course of the year 2000.

3. Estonia will pay the contribution mentioned above, partly from the Estonian national budget, and partly from Estonia's PHARE National Programme. Subject to a PHARE separate programming procedure, the requested PHARE funds will be transferred to Estonia by means of a separate financing Memorandum. Together with the part coming from Estonia's State budget, these funds will constitute Estonia's national contribution, out of which it will make payments in response to annual calls for funds from the Commission.
4. PHARE funds will be requested according to the following schedule:
 - EUR 305 000 for the contribution to the Socrates II Programme in 2000,
 - for the contribution to the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme, the following yearly amounts (in euro)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
337 000	359 000	416 000	356 000	296 000	247 000	237 000

The remaining part of the contribution of Estonia will be covered from the Estonian State budget.

5. The Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽¹⁾ will apply, notably as regards the management of the contribution of Estonia.

Travel costs and subsistence costs incurred by representatives and experts of Estonia for the purposes of taking part as observers in the work of the committees referred to in Annex I, Point 11 or other meetings related to the implementation of the Programmes shall be reimbursed by the Commission on the same basis as and in accordance with the procedures currently in force for non-governmental experts of the Member States of the European Union.

6. After the entry into force of this Decision and at the beginning of each following year, the Commission will send to Estonia a call for funds corresponding to its contribution to each of the respective programmes under this Decision.

This contribution shall be expressed in euro and paid into an euro bank account of the Commission.

Estonia will pay its contribution according to the call for funds:

- by 1 May for the part financed from its national budget, provided that the call for funds is sent by the Commission before 1 April, or at the latest one month after the call for funds is sent if later;
- by 1 May for the part financed from PHARE, provided that the corresponding amounts have been sent to Estonia by this time, or at the latest in a period of 30 days after these funds have been sent to Estonia.

Any delay in the payment of the contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by Estonia on the outstanding amount from the due date. The interest rate corresponds to the rate applied by the European Central Bank, on the due date, for its operations in euro, increased by 1,5 percentage points.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 356, 31.12.1977, p. 1. Financial Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, ECSC, Euratom) No 2673/1999 (OJ L 326, 18.12.1999, p. 1).

**DECISION No 2/2000 OF THE EU-LATVIA ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
of 27 July 2000**

**adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Republic of Latvia in Community
programmes in the fields of training and education**

(2000/561/EC)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Having regard to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Latvia, of the other part ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 109 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) According to Article 109 of the Europe Agreement and its Annex XVIII, Latvia may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training and education.
- (2) According to the same Article the terms and conditions for the participation of Latvia in these activities shall be decided by the Association Council.
- (3) Following Decision No 2/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Latvia, of the other part, of 27 October 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Latvia in Community programmes in the fields of training, youth and education ⁽²⁾, Latvia has been participating in the first phase of the Leonardo da Vinci ⁽³⁾ and Socrates ⁽⁴⁾ Programmes since 1 November 1998, and has expressed the wish to participate in the second phase of the programmes,

Article 1

Latvia shall participate in the second phase of the European Community programmes Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates set out respectively in Council Decision 1999/382/EC of 26 April 1999 establishing the second phase of the Community vocational training action programme 'Leonardo da Vinci' ⁽⁵⁾ and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000 establishing the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education 'Socrates' ⁽⁶⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'Leonardo da Vinci II' and 'Socrates II') according to the terms and conditions set out in Annexes I and II which shall form an integral part of this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply for the duration of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II Programmes, starting from 1 January 2000.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption by the Association Council.

Done at Brussels, 27 July 2000.

For the Association Council

The President

H. VÉDRINE

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 2.2.1998, p. 3.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 313, 21.11.1998, p. 17.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 340, 29.12.1994, p. 8.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 87, 20.4.1995, p. 10. Decision as amended by Decision No 576/98/EC (OJ L 77, 14.3.1998, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 146, 11.6.1999, p. 33.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 28, 3.2.2000, p. 1.

ANNEX I

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA IN THE LEONARDO DA VINCI II, AND SOCRATES II PROGRAMMES

1. Latvia will participate in the activities of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'the Programmes') in conformity, unless otherwise provided in this Decision, with the objectives, criteria, procedures and deadlines as defined in Council Decision 1999/382/EC and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing these Community action programmes.
2. In conformity with the terms of the Articles 5 of the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II and with the provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member State and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates National Agencies adopted by the Commission, Latvia will establish the appropriate structures for the coordinated management of the implementation of the programme actions at national level, and will take the measures needed to ensure the adequate funding of these Agencies which will receive programme grants for their activities. Latvia will take all other necessary steps for the efficient running of the Programmes at national level.
3. To participate in the Programmes, Latvia will pay each year a contribution to the general budget of the European Union according to the arrangements set out in Annex II.

If necessary in order to take account of programme developments, or the evolution of Latvia's absorption capacity, the Association Committee is entitled to adapt this contribution, so as to avoid a budgetary imbalance in the implementation of the Programmes.

4. The terms and conditions for the submission, assessment and selection of applications related to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of Latvia will be the same as those applicable to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of the Community.

Latvian experts may be taken into consideration by the Commission when appointing independent experts according to the relevant provisions of the decisions establishing the programmes to assist it in project evaluation.

5. With a view to ensuring the Community dimension of the Programmes, in order to be eligible for Community financial support, projects and activities will have to include a partner from at least one of the Member States of the Community.
6. For the mobility activities referred to in Annex I, section III.1 of the Leonardo da Vinci II decision, and for the Socrates decentralised actions, as well as for financial support to the activities of the national agencies set up in accordance with point 2 above, funds will be allocated to Latvia on the basis of the annual programme budget breakdown decided at Community level and the Latvia's contribution to the programme. The maximal amount of financial support to the activities of the national agencies will not exceed 50 % of the budget for the national agencies' work programmes.
7. The Member States of the Community and Latvia will make every effort, within the framework of existing provisions, to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers, trainees, trainers, university administrators, young people and other eligible persons moving between Latvia and the Member States of the Community for the purpose of participating in activities covered by this Decision.
8. Activities covered by this Decision will be exempt from imposition by Latvia of indirect taxes, customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of goods and services intended for use under such activities.
9. Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission of the European Communities and the Court of Auditors of the European Communities in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes pursuant to the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II (Articles 13 and 14 respectively), the participation of Latvia in the Programmes will be continuously monitored on a partnership basis involving the Commission of the European Communities and Latvia. Latvia will submit to the Commission relevant reports and take part in other specific activities set out by the Community in that context.
10. In conformity with the Community's Financial Regulations, contractual arrangements concluded with, or by, entities of Latvia shall provide for controls and audits to be carried out by, or under the authority of, the Commission and the Court of Auditors. As far as financial audits are concerned, they may be carried out with the purpose of controlling such entities' income and expenditures, related to the contractual obligations towards the Community. In a spirit of cooperation and mutual interest, the relevant authorities of Latvia shall provide any reasonable and feasible assistance as may be necessary or helpful under the circumstances to perform such controls and audits.

The provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member States and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and the Socrates national agencies adopted by the Commission will apply to the relations between Latvia, the Commission and the Latvian national agencies. In the event of irregularity, negligence or fraud imputable to the Latvian national agencies, the Latvian authorities shall be responsible for the funds not recovered.

11. Without prejudice to the procedures referred to in Articles 74 of the Decision on Leonardo da Vinci II and Article 8 of the Decision on Socrates II, representatives of Latvia will participate as observers in the Programme Committees, for the points which concern them. These committees shall meet without the presence of representatives of Latvia for the rest of the points, as well as, at the time of voting.
 12. The language to be used in contacts with the Commission, as regards the application process, contracts, reports to be submitted and other administrative arrangements for the Programmes, will be any one of the official languages of the Community.
 13. The Community and Latvia may terminate activities under this Decision at any time upon twelve months' notice in writing. Projects and activities in progress at the time of termination shall continue until their completion under the conditions laid down in this Decision.
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ANNEX II

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO LEONARDO DA VINCI II AND SOCRATES II**1. Leonardo da Vinci**

The financial contribution to be paid by Latvia to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme will be the following (in euro):

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1 123 000	1 154 000	1 230 000	1 284 000	1 338 000	1 407 000	1 461 000

2. Socrates

The financial contribution to be paid by Latvia to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Socrates II Programme in 2000 will be EUR 894 000.

The contribution to be paid by Latvia for the following years of the programme will be decided by the Association Council in the course of the year 2000.

3. Latvia will pay the contribution mentioned above, partly from the Latvian national budget, and partly from Latvia's PHARE National Programme. Subject to a PHARE separate programming procedure, the requested PHARE funds will be transferred to Latvia by means of a separate financing Memorandum. Together with the part coming from Latvia's State budget, these funds will constitute Latvia's national contribution, out of which it will make payments in response to annual calls for funds from the Commission.

4. PHARE funds will be requested according to the following schedule:

- EUR 357 600 for the contribution to the Socrates II Programme in 2000,
- for the contribution to the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme, the following yearly amounts (in euro)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
449 200	438 520	442 800	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later

The remaining part of the contribution of Latvia will be covered from the Latvian State budget.

5. The Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽¹⁾ will apply, notably as regards the management of the contribution of Latvia.

Travel costs and subsistence costs incurred by representatives and experts of Latvia for the purposes of taking part as observers in the work of the committees referred to in Annex I, Point 11 or other meetings related to the implementation of the Programmes shall be reimbursed by the Commission on the same basis as and in accordance with the procedures currently in force for non-governmental experts of the Member States of the European Union.

6. After the entry into force of this Decision and at the beginning of each following year, the Commission will send to Latvia a call for funds corresponding to its contribution to each of the respective programmes under this Decision.

This contribution shall be expressed in euro and paid into an euro bank account of the Commission.

Latvia will pay its contribution according to the call for funds:

- by 1 May for the part financed from its national budget, provided that the call for funds is sent by the Commission before 1 April, or at the latest one month after the call for funds is sent if later;
- by 1 May for the part financed from PHARE, provided that the corresponding amounts have been sent to Latvia by this time, or at the latest in a period of 30 days after these funds have been sent to Latvia.

Any delay in the payment of the contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by Latvia on the outstanding amount from the due date. The interest rate corresponds to the rate applied by the European Central Bank, on the due date, for its operations in euro, increased by 1,5 percentage points.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 356, 31.12.1977, p. 1. Financial Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, ECSC, Euratom) No 2673/1999 (OJ L 326, 18.12.1999, p. 1).

**DECISION No 2/2000 OF THE EU-POLAND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
of 28 July 2000**

**adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Republic of Poland in Community
programmes in the fields of training and education**

(2000/562/EC)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Having regard to the Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part, concerning Poland's participation in Community programmes ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Articles 1 and 2 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) According to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol, Poland may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training and education.
- (2) According to Article 2 of the Additional Protocol, the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland in these activities shall be decided by the Association Council.
- (3) Following Decision No 1/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part, of 27 February 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland in Community Programmes in the fields of training, youth and education ⁽²⁾, Poland has been participating in the first phase of the Leonardo da Vinci ⁽³⁾ and Socrates ⁽⁴⁾ Programmes since 1 March 1998, and has expressed the wish to participate in the second phase of the programme,

Article 1

Poland shall participate in the second phase of the European Community programmes Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates set out respectively in Council Decision 1999/382/EC of 26 April 1999 establishing the second phase of the Community vocational training action programme 'Leonardo da Vinci' ⁽⁵⁾ and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000 establishing the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education 'Socrates' ⁽⁶⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'Leonardo da Vinci II' and 'Socrates II') according to the terms and conditions set out in Annexes I and II which shall form an integral part of this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply for the duration of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II Programmes, starting from 1 January 2000.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption by the Association Council.

Done at Brussels, 28 July 2000.

For the Association Council

The President

H. VÉDRINE

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 317, 30.12.1995, p. 35.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 76, 13.3.1998, p. 33.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 340, 29.12.1994, p. 8.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 87, 20.4.1995, p. 10. Decision as amended by Decision No 576/98/EC (OJ L 77, 14.3.1998, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 146, 11.6.1999, p. 33.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 28, 3.2.2000, p. 1.

ANNEX I

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN THE LEONARDO DA VINCI II, AND SOCRATES II PROGRAMMES

1. Poland will participate in the activities of the Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'the Programmes') in conformity, unless otherwise provided in this Decision, with the objectives, criteria, procedures and deadlines as defined in Council Decision 1999/382/EC and Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing these Community action programmes.
2. In conformity with the terms of the Articles 5 of the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II and with the provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member State and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates National Agencies adopted by the Commission, Poland will establish the appropriate structures for the coordinated management of the implementation of the programme actions at national level, and will take the measures needed to ensure the adequate funding of these Agencies which will receive programme grants for their activities. Poland will take all other necessary steps for the efficient running of the Programmes at national level.
3. To participate in the Programmes, Poland will pay each year a contribution to the general budget of the European Union according to the arrangements set out in Annex II.

If necessary in order to take account of programme developments, or the evolution of Poland's absorption capacity, the Association Committee is entitled to adapt this contribution, so as to avoid a budgetary imbalance in the implementation of the Programmes.

4. The terms and conditions for the submission, assessment and selection of applications related to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of Poland will be the same as those applicable to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of the Community.

Polish experts may be taken into consideration by the Commission when appointing independent experts according to the relevant provisions of the decisions establishing the programmes to assist it in project evaluation.

5. With a view to ensuring the Community dimension of the Programmes, in order to be eligible for Community financial support, projects and activities will have to include a partner from at least one of the Member States of the Community.
6. For the mobility activities referred to in Annex I, section III.1 of the Leonardo da Vinci II decision, and for the Socrates decentralised actions, as well as for financial support to the activities of the national agencies set up in accordance with point 2 above, funds will be allocated to Poland on the basis of the annual programme budget breakdown decided at Community level and the Poland's contribution to the programme. The maximal amount of financial support to the activities of the national agencies will not exceed 50 % of the budget for the national agencies' work programmes.
7. The Member States of the Community and Poland will make every effort, within the framework of existing provisions, to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers, trainees, trainers, university administrators, young people and other eligible persons moving between Poland and the Member States of the Community for the purpose of participating in activities covered by this Decision.
8. Activities covered by this Decision will be exempt from imposition by Poland of indirect taxes, customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of goods and services intended for use under such activities.
9. Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission of the European Communities and the Court of Auditors of the European Communities in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes pursuant to the Decisions on Leonardo da Vinci II and Socrates II (Articles 13 and 14 respectively), the participation of Poland in the Programmes will be continuously monitored on a partnership basis involving the Commission of the European Communities and Poland. Poland will submit to the Commission relevant reports and take part in other specific activities set out by the Community in that context.
10. In conformity with the Community's Financial Regulations, contractual arrangements concluded with, or by, entities of Poland shall provide for controls and audits to be carried out by, or under the authority of, the Commission and the Court of Auditors. As far as financial audits are concerned, they may be carried out with the purpose of controlling such entities' income and expenditures, related to the contractual obligations towards the Community. In a spirit of cooperation and mutual interest, the relevant authorities of Poland shall provide any reasonable and feasible assistance as may be necessary or helpful under the circumstances to perform such controls and audits.

The provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Member States and of the Commission concerning the Leonardo da Vinci and the Socrates national agencies adopted by the Commission will apply to the relations between Poland, the Commission and the Polish national agencies. In the event of irregularity, negligence or fraud imputable to the Polish national agencies, the Polish authorities shall be responsible for the funds not recovered.

11. Without prejudice to the procedures referred to in Articles 74 of the Decision on Leonardo da Vinci II and Article 8 of the Decision on Socrates II, representatives of Poland will participate as observers in the Programme Committees, for the points which concern them. These committees shall meet without the presence of representatives of Poland for the rest of the points, as well as, at the time of voting.
 12. The language to be used in contacts with the Commission, as regards the application process, contracts, reports to be submitted and other administrative arrangements for the Programmes, will be any one of the official languages of the Community.
 13. The Community and Poland may terminate activities under this Decision at any time upon twelve months' notice in writing. Projects and activities in progress at the time of termination shall continue until their completion under the conditions laid down in this Decision.
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ANNEX II

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO LEONARDO DA VINCI II AND SOCRATES II**1. Leonardo da Vinci**

The financial contribution to be paid by Poland to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme will be the following (in euro):

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
6 157 000	6 329 000	6 757 000	7 058 000	7 358 000	7 744 000	8 044 000

2. Socrates

The financial contribution to be paid by Poland to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Socrates II Programme in 2000 will be EUR 11 491 000.

The contribution to be paid by Poland for the following years of the programme will be decided by the Association Council in the course of the year 2000.

3. Poland will pay the contribution mentioned above, partly from the Polish national budget, and partly from Poland's PHARE National Programme. Subject to a PHARE separate programming procedure, the requested PHARE funds will be transferred to Poland by means of a separate financing Memorandum. Together with the part coming from Poland's State budget, these funds will constitute Poland's national contribution, out of which it will make payments in response to annual calls for funds from the Commission.

4. PHARE funds will be requested according to the following schedule:

- EUR 7 665 470 for the contribution to the Socrates II Programme in 2000,
- for the contribution to the Leonardo da Vinci II Programme, the following yearly amounts (in euro)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
4 109 110	3 910 000	3 838 000	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later	Amount to be specified later

The remaining part of the contribution of Poland will be covered from the Polish State budget.

5. The Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽¹⁾ will apply, notably as regards the management of the contribution of Poland.

Travel costs and subsistence costs incurred by representatives and experts of Poland for the purposes of taking part as observers in the work of the committees referred to in Annex I, Point 11 or other meetings related to the implementation of the Programmes shall be reimbursed by the Commission on the same basis as and in accordance with the procedures currently in force for non-governmental experts of the Member States of the European Union.

6. After the entry into force of this Decision and at the beginning of each following year, the Commission will send to Poland a call for funds corresponding to its contribution to each of the respective programmes under this Decision.

This contribution shall be expressed in euro and paid into an euro bank account of the Commission.

Poland will pay its contribution according to the call for funds:

- by 1 May for the part financed from its national budget, provided that the call for funds is sent by the Commission before 1 April, or at the latest one month after the call for funds is sent if later;
- by 1 May for the part financed from PHARE, provided that the corresponding amounts have been sent to Poland by this time, or at the latest in a period of 30 days after these funds have been sent to Poland.

Any delay in the payment of the contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by Poland on the outstanding amount from the due date. The interest rate corresponds to the rate applied by the European Central Bank, on the due date, for its operations in euro, increased by 1,5 percentage points.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 356, 31.12.1977, p. 1. Financial Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, ECSC, Euratom) No 2673/1999 (OJ L 326, 18.12.1999, p. 1).

DECISION No 3/1999 OF THE EU-LATVIA ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
of 28 July 2000
adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Latvia in the Community programme for
energy efficiency, SAVE II
(2000/563/EC)

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Latvia, of the other part ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 109 thereof,

Whereas according to Article 109 of the said Europe Agreement, Latvia may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions including those in the field of energy and the terms and conditions for the participation of Latvia in the activities referred to in the said Article are to be decided by the Association Council,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Latvia shall participate in the European Community SAVE II Programme according to the terms and conditions set out in Annexes I and II.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply for the duration of the SAVE II Programme.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the first day of the month following its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 28 July 2000.

For the Association Council
The President
H. VÉDRINE

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 2.2.1998, p. 1.

ANNEX I

Terms and conditions for the participation of Latvia in the multiannual Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II

1. Latvia shall participate in all actions of the multiannual Community programme for energy efficiency SAVE II (hereinafter called 'SAVE II') in conformity, unless otherwise provided in this Decision, with the objectives, criteria, procedures and time limits laid down in Council Decision 96/737/EC establishing a five-year programme for the preparation and implementation of measures and actions in a cost-effective manner in order to promote energy efficiency within the Community.
2. The terms and conditions for the submission, assessment and selection of applications related to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of Latvia shall be the same as those applicable to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of the Community, set within the limits of the financial contribution of Latvia less administrative costs as provided in Annex II.
3. Where applicable, to ensure the Community dimension of SAVE II, transnational projects and activities proposed by Latvia shall be required to include a minimum number of partners from the Member States of the Community. This minimum shall be decided in the framework of the implementation of SAVE II, taking into account the nature of the various activities, the number of partners in a given project, and the number of countries participating in the activity.

Latvia shall pay the total contribution from its national budget, since PHARE assistance has not been requested for this purpose.
4. Latvia shall take all necessary steps to ensure national coordination and organisation of participation in SAVE II.
5. Latvia shall pay each year a contribution to the general budget of the European Union to cover the costs resulting from its participation in SAVE II (see Annex II).

The Association Committee is entitled to adapt this contribution whenever necessary.
6. The Member States of the Community and Latvia shall make every effort, within the framework of existing provisions, to facilitate the free movement and residence of persons moving between Latvia and the Member States of the Community for the purpose of participating in activities covered by this Decision.
7. Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission and the Court of Auditors of the European Communities in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of SAVE II pursuant to Article 5 of the Council Decision on SAVE II, the participation of Latvia in the Programme shall be continuously monitored on a partnership basis involving Latvia and the Commission of the European Communities. Latvia shall submit the necessary reports to the Commission and take part in other specific activities set out by the Community in that context.
8. Without prejudice to the procedures referred to in Articles 4 and 5 of the Decision on SAVE II, Latvia shall be invited to coordination meetings on any question concerning the implementation of this Decision prior to the regular meetings of the SAVE Committee. The Commission shall inform Latvia about the results of such regular meetings.
9. The language to be used as regards the application process, contracts, reports to be submitted and other administrative arrangements for the SAVE II Programme, shall be one of the official languages of the Community.

ANNEX II

Financial contribution of Latvia to SAVE II

1. The financial contribution of Latvia shall cover:
 - subsidies or any other financial support from the Programme to Latvian participants,
 - supplementary administrative costs related to the management of the Programme by the Commission of the European Communities stemming from Latvia's participation.
2. For every financial year, the aggregated amount of subsidies or any other financial support received from the programme by Latvian beneficiaries shall not exceed the contribution paid by Latvia, after deduction of the supplementary administrative costs.

Should the contribution paid by Latvia to the general budget of the European Union, after deduction of the supplementary administrative costs, be higher than the aggregated amount of the subsidies or other financial support received by the Latvian beneficiaries from the Programme, the Commission shall transfer the balance to the next budgetary exercise, and it shall be deducted from the following year's contribution. Should such a balance be left when the Programme comes to an end, the corresponding amount shall be reimbursed to Latvia.

3. Latvia's annual contribution shall be EUR 57 942 from 2000. From this sum, an amount of EUR 3 942 shall cover supplementary administrative costs related to the management of the Programme by the Commission stemming from Latvia's participation.

Latvia shall pay the total contribution from its national budget, since PHARE assistance has not been requested for this purpose.

4. The financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union shall apply, notably to the management of the contribution of Latvia.

Upon the entry into force of this Decision and at the beginning of each year, the Commission shall send to Latvia a call for funds corresponding to its contribution to the costs under this Decision.

This contribution shall be expressed in euro and paid into a euro bank account of the Commission.

Latvia shall pay its contribution to the annual costs under this Decision according to the call for funds and at the latest three months after the call for funds is sent. Any delay in the payment of the contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by Latvia on the outstanding amount from the due date. The interest rate corresponds to the rate applied by the ECB for the month of the due date, for its operations in euro, increased by 1,5 percentage points.

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 7 September 2000

amending Decision 93/693/EC establishing a list of semen collection centres approved for the export to the Community of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species from third countries

(notified under document number C(2000) 2498)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/564/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 88/407/EEC of 14 June 1988 laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision 93/693/EC ⁽²⁾, as last amended by Decision 2000/343/EC ⁽³⁾, establishes a list of semen collection centres approved for the export to the Community of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species from third countries.
- (2) The competent veterinary services of New Zealand have forwarded a request for one addition to the list of semen collection centres officially approved for the export from New Zealand to the Community of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.
- (3) Guarantees regarding compliance with the requirements specified in Article 9 of Directive 88/407/EEC have been received by the Commission from New Zealand.
- (4) It is therefore necessary to amend the list of approved centres in New Zealand.
- (5) 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 following semen collection centre is added to the list concerning New Zealand in the Annex to Decision 93/693/EC:

NZ		NZAB 20	Livestock Improvement Corporation of New Zealand Private Bag 3016 Hamilton	
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⁽¹⁾ OJ L 194, 22.7.1988, p. 10.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 320, 22.12.1993, p. 35.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 119, 20.5.2000, p. 36.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 7 September 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION DECISION

of 7 September 2000

amending Decision 98/467/EC establishing certain implementing provisions for European Parliament and Council Decision No 888/98/EC establishing a programme of Community action to improve the functioning of the indirect taxation systems of the internal market (Fiscalis Programme)

(notified under document number C(2000) 2509)

(2000/565/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Decision No 888/98/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 30 March 1998 establishing a programme of Community action to improve the functioning of the indirect taxation systems of the internal market (Fiscalis Programme) ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 10 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The experience gained from the organisation of activities organised on the basis of Decision 98/467/EC ⁽²⁾ has indicated that, in the interest of sound and efficient management, certain changes are necessary to improve the management of the Programme.
- (2) The increased involvement of Member States in the practical management of the Programme will reduce bureaucracy and improve efficiency.
- (3) Evaluation is essential to the sound management of the Programme and the methods of evaluation must be responsive to change and capable of assessing the impact of the activities of the Programme.
- (4) In the context of the internal market, there are benefits to be obtained from the exchange of experiences between officials responsible for indirect taxation and those working in related fields and that such cross-fertilisation can best be achieved through the organisation of joint seminars.
- (5) The extension of the scope of the implementing provisions to include certain expenses related to activities carried out by Member States on behalf of the Community (i.e. the Community components of existing and future communication and information-exchange systems, manuals and guides, as well as the development of necessary common tools for indirect taxation training, including linguistic training tools) further increases Member States' involvement in the management of the Programme, thereby improving the Programme's effectiveness and efficiency.

(6) Decision 98/467/EC should be amended accordingly.

(7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee referred to in Article 11 of Decision No 888/98/EC,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision 98/467/EC is amended as follows:

1. Article 1 is replaced by the following:

'Article 1

This Decision lays down certain implementing provisions in respect of European Parliament and Council Decision No 888/98/EC establishing a programme of Community action to improve the functioning of the indirect taxation systems of the internal market (Fiscalis Programme). These provisions relate to:

- the organisation of the activities referred to in Article 5 of Decision No 888/98/EC,
- the financial management and control in connection with the activities referred to in Article 4(1) and (2), Article 5 and Article 6(1)(c) of Decision No 888/98/EC,
- the procedures for continuous evaluation and follow-up of the activities referred to in Article 5 of Decision No 888/98/EC.'

2. Article 5(2) is replaced by the following:

'2. As a general rule, exchanges and seminars shall be completed within the same calendar year as that in which the Community bears the related expenses. Journeys by officials to or from other Member States related to multilateral controls shall be completed within a period of time not exceeding eight months. The last journey, within that eight-month period, shall be completed at the latest during the first calendar year following the year in which the multilateral control was selected in accordance with Article 5(3) of Decision No 888/98/EC for financial support from the Community. Exceptions to this general rule should be notified to the Commission in advance. In the absence of an opinion to the contrary from the Commission within 10 working days of the receipt of the notification, the Community shall bear the expenses related to the activity concerned.'

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 126, 28.4.1998, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 206, 23.7.1998, p. 43.

3. In Article 7(4) first and third sentence the words 'two weeks' are replaced by the words 'four weeks'.

4. Article 8 is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. No more than 15 seminars may be organised in any given year. Proposals for seminars may be made by the Member States or the Commission in accordance with the model established by the Commission. The seminars chosen shall be those which are most likely to meet the general objectives of the Programme, as set down in Article 3 of Decision No 888/98/EC.'

Seminars may be organised jointly with bodies other than indirect taxation administrations, provided that expenses relating to the organisation of such a joint seminar are shared pro-rata and that the joint seminar is likely to meet the general objectives of the Programme, as set down in Article 3 of Decision No 888/98/EC.'

(b) Paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

'4. The Community shall bear other expenses relating to the organisation of seminars not covered by the travel and subsistence expenses of officials and agreed between the Commission and the host Member State in accordance with paragraph 5. The Member States' administrations shall pay the supplier(s) using funds provided for that purpose for services contracted relating to the organisation of seminars following the appropriate guidelines established by the Commission.'

Article 10 is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraphs 1 and 2 are replaced by the following:

'1. The total amount incurred by each Member State that may be borne by the Community in a given year shall be determined by the Commission, taking into account:

- the annual budgetary appropriations authorised for the Fiscalis Programme,
- the appropriations required for Fiscalis activities other than exchanges, seminars and multilateral controls,
- the appropriations required to reimburse the cost of participation of officials and outside experts at seminars,
- the number of officials in each Member State eligible to participate in the activities of the Programme (in accordance with Article 3(6)),
- the number of Member States,
- any adjustments made in accordance with paragraph 2; and in the light of the reports referred to in paragraph 10,
- and the number of taxable persons in each Member State making intra-Community supplies.

2. The total amount of expenses for activities referred to in Article 1, second indent that may be borne by the Community for each Member State may be adjusted throughout the year. Such adjustments shall be justified in the light of the reports of actual and forecast expenditure referred to in paragraph 9 of this Article.'

(b) Paragraphs 5 and 6 are replaced by the following:

'5. The Member States shall reimburse on behalf of the Community the travel and subsistence expenses incurred by officials in the course of exchanges, seminars or multilateral controls up to the total amount of travel and subsistence expense established in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2. The Member States shall ensure that only expenses incurred in accordance with the rules set down in the appropriate guidelines established by the Commission are reimbursed.

6. The Commission shall in turn reimburse the Member States the expenses they have reimbursed on behalf of the Community in accordance with paragraph 5. A maximum of 60 % of the total amount that the Community will bear for each Member State will be paid to each Member State at the beginning of the year. Further payments to the Member States may be made subsequently, as necessary and to cover other actions under Article 1, second indent, carried out on behalf of the Community by Member States. These subsequent payments may be withheld until the Commission considers that all the provisions of this Decision, in particular paragraphs 9 and 10 of this Article and of Article 11, have been fulfilled.'

(c) Paragraph 8 is replaced by the following:

'8. The Member States shall preserve either in the original or in electronic form for five years all necessary supporting documentation or related information.

Inspection shall be carried out, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Financial Regulation (*), by Commission officials representing the Authorising Officer by means of examination of the files related to the management of the funds received in relation to the activities of the Programme and, if necessary, on the spot.

(*) OJ L 356, 31.12.1977, p. 1.'

5. Article 11 is amended as follows:

(a) In Paragraph 1 the introductory phrase is replaced by the following:

'The Member States shall ensure that the evaluation forms in accordance with the model established by the Commission are completed and countersigned and communicated to the Commission within the deadlines indicated.'

(b) In paragraph 2 the fourth indent is replaced by the following:

‘— report of each multilateral control by the leading Member State. This report shall be sent to the Commission before the end of the eighth month of the second calendar year following the year in which the multilateral control was selected in accordance with Article 5(3) of Decision No 888/98/EC for financial support from the Community. The Commission shall forward the report to all Member States and it shall subsequently be discussed by the Committee.’

6. The Annexes are deleted.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from 1 January 2000.

It shall, however, not apply to activities which commenced before that date.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 7 September 2000.

For the Commission

Frederik BOLKESTEIN

Member of the Commission

CORRIGENDA**Corrigendum to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1452/2000 of 3 July 2000 on the authorisation of transfers between the quantitative limits of textiles and clothing products originating in Taiwan**

(Official Journal of the European Communities L 163 of 4 July 2000)

On page 26:

Add:

‘— Category 37: carry over of 1 389 780 kilograms to year 2000 quantitative limits.’
