COMMISSION DECISION

of 31 July 1974

on the sale of beef and veal at reduced prices to certain categories of consumer

(74/423/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 [1] of 27 June 1968 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1855/74 [2], and in particular Articles 22a (2) and 25 thereof;

Whereas under Council Regulation (EEC) No 1856/74 [3] of 16 July 1974 laying down general rules governing the sale of beef and veal at reduced prices to certain categories of consumer Member States may be authorized to grant aid to enable recipients of social welfare benefits to purchase beef and veal at reduced prices; whereas, given the present situation on the market in beef and veal, provision should be made for aid to be granted over a period long enough for the operation to have some effect and to make some contribution towards the relief of the market;

Whereas the amount of the aid must be such as to enable the meat to be sold at a price which takes into account the financial resources of the recipients and their habits of consumption; whereas it is not possible, however, owing to the differing natures of the products concerned, to provide for a price reduction by reference to the weight of the product; whereas a flat rate system should be adopted, consisting in the distribution of coupons or other documents of entitlement representing the average value of the various qualities of meat which a recipient would be likely to consume during one month, such coupons to be used in partial payment for the meat purchased;

Whereas the choice of measures to ensure that the operation is carried out in a proper manner should be left to the Member States, so that they may have recourse to the system most appropriate;

Whereas Member States should inform the Commission of the measures proposed by them and of the numbers of coupons or other documents of entitlement issued;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the Opinion of the Management Committee for Beef and Veal,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Member States are hereby authorized, until 6 April 1975, to grant an aid to consumers in receipt of social welfare benefits to enable them to purchase at reduced prices fresh, frozen or chilled beef and veal.

Article 2

1. The aid shall be granted in the form of coupons or equivalent documents of entitlement. These shall be distributed free of charge to consumers, shall be of a certain face value expressed in national currency and destined to be used for payment of an amount not exceeding 50 % of the price of the meat purchased.

2. The maximum aid payable to consumers shall be 2 units of account per person per month.

Article 3

The Member States shall be responsible through their competent authorities for making the necessary arrangements for the distribution of coupons or other documents of entitlement and for control arrangements designed to ensure that the aid benefits only its intended recipients.

Article 4

Member States shall inform the Commission:

(a) whether and to what extent they intend to make use of this authorization;

(b) of the criteria for determining the categories of consumer referred to in Article 1 and of the probable number of recipients;

(c) of measures taken pursuant to Article 3;

[1] OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 24.
[2] OJ No L 195, 18. 7. 1974, p. 14.
[3] OJ No L 195, 18. 7. 1974, p. 15.

(d) each month, of the total value of coupons or other documents of entitlement issued during the preceding month.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 31 July 1974.

For the Commission

The President

François-Xavier ORTOLI