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COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 February 1996

on a long-term national aid scheme to assist farmers in northern areas of Sweden

(Only the Swedish text is authentic)

(96/228/EC)

(OJ L 76, 26.3.1996, p. 29)

Amended by:

		Official Journal		
		No	page	date
►**M1**	Commission Decision of 17 July 1997 (97/557/EC)	L 230	13	21.8.1997
►**M2**	Commission Decision 2000/411/EC of 9 June 2000	L 155	60	28.6.2000

NB: This consolidated version contains references to the European unit of account and/or the ecu, which from 1 January 1999 should be understood as references to the euro — Council Regulation (EEC) No 3308/80 (OJ L 345, 20.12.1980, p. 1) and Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 (OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1).

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COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 February 1996

on a long-term national aid scheme to assist farmers in northern areas of Sweden

(Only the Swedish text is authentic)

(96/228/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden, and in particular Article 142 thereof,

Whereas in order to authorize Sweden to grant long-term national aid intended to ensure that agricultural activity is maintained in northern regions, those regions must be determined by the Commission;

Whereas, in order to facilitate the administration of the scheme when determining those regions, it is appropriate to keep the communes and the four sub-regions defined in the Swedish system of aid to agriculture in northern areas in force before accession as the administrative units relevant for checking compliance with the determination criteria;

Whereas the regions selected are to cover the agricultural areas situated to the north of the 62nd parallel and some adjacent areas south of that parallel affected by comparable climatic conditions rendering agricultural activity particularly difficult; whereas, when determining those regions, account must be taken in particular of low population density, the agricultural area as a proportion of the overall surface area, and the agricultural area devoted to arable crops intended for human consumption as a proportion of the utilized agricultural area (UAA);

Whereas the foregoing elements lead, in the case of Sweden, to the list of administrative units in sub-regions 1, 2A, 2B and 3 provided for in this Decision, which units are either north of the 62nd parallel or adjacent to that parallel and affected by comparable climatic conditions rendering agricultural activity particularly difficult and have population densities of 10 inhabitants or fewer per square km, UAA considered to constitute 10% or less of the overall surface area and a proportion 20% or less of that UAA devoted to arable crops intended for human consumption; whereas it is appropriate that communes entirely surrounded by such areas be included in the list up to a maximum of two communes per enclave, even if they do not have the same characteristics;

Whereas the northern area thus determined represents a UAA of 509 442 ha, which is 14% of the total UAA in Sweden;

Whereas on the basis of available national statistics, the reference period both for quantities and for the amount of support should be fixed as 1994 for the production of cows milk and of soft fruit and vegetables and as 1993 for other products;

Whereas, for reasons of transparency, it is appropriate to indicate the volume of production per product in the abovementioned years;

Whereas on 11 May 1995 Sweden submitted to the Commission details of the system of aid planned; whereas it subsequently forwarded additional information; whereas this system provides for aid for cow's milk, goats, pigs, laying hens and soft fruit and vegetables; whereas the level of aid planned means that the level of overall support applied during the selected reference period is not exceeded;

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Whereas the planned measures may be authorized since they satisfy the conditions referred to in Article 142 (3) of the Act of Accession; whereas the measures take account of the level of compensatory allowance within the meaning of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2387/95 [2], and the agri-environmental aid provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2078/92 [3], as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2772/95 [4] for the northern areas, levels which it is appropriate to note for the sake of transparency; whereas, if accompanied by the necessary measures, they will not lead either to an increase in overall support or to an increase in production in comparison with the abovementioned reference periods; whereas, in the latter connection, it is appropriate to reduce aid in the following year in proportion to the extent by which production exceeds that of the reference period;

Whereas, with respect to the last point, apart from cow's milk, for which production is governed by the quota system laid down by the common organization of the market, and in particular by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3950/92 [5], as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1552/95 [6], aid is not granted on the basis of quantities produced but on the basis of production factors (head of livestock or hectares) within regional limits; whereas for the sake of clarity it is appropriate to set out those limits in Annex IV;

Whereas the aid for the transport of cow's milk provided for in the scheme may be authorized by virtue of the third subparagraph of Article 142 (3) of the Act of Accession; whereas, in any cases where transport aid is granted as part of a national aid scheme for regional support, it is necessary to ensure that the various aid schemes do not result in the duplication of compensation for the same activity;

Whereas the aid corresponds to the objectives set out in the third subparagraph of Article 142 (3) since they are designed to maintain traditional primary production suited to the climatic conditions of the regions concerned, to improve production for agricultural products and facilitate their disposal and to ensure that the environment is protected and the countryside preserved; whereas, in particular, the aid for the transport of cow's mill corresponds to the objective set out in the third subparagraph of Article 142 (3) and may be permitted since it does not duplicate any aid authorized as part of the national aid scheme for regional support;

Whereas, in the light of the foregoing, the aid in question may be authorized, on condition that it complies with the limits set for certain products by the common organization of the markets,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The northern region of Sweden shall include, by sub-region, the local administrative units (Församling) and municipal units (Kommun) listed in Annex I.

Article 2

1. The reference period referred to in Article 142 (3) of the Act of Accession shall be 1994 as regards both quantities and the level of support to be complied with for the production of cow's milk and soft fruit and vegetables, and 1993 as regards other products.

2. Production in the reference period is indicated by product in Annex II.

(1) OJ No L 218, 6. 8. 1991, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 244, 12. 10. 1995, p. 50.
(3) OJ No L 215, 30. 7. 1992, p. 85.
(4) OJ No L 288, 1. 12. 1995, p. 35.
(5) OJ No L 405, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.
(6) OJ No L 148, 30. 6. 1995, p. 43.

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Article 3

1. The aid set out in Annex III shall be authorized from 1 January 1995. This Annex lists the authorized amounts, by sub-region, by production factor (hectare, head of livestock) or by quantity produced, as well as the overall amount of authorized national aid.

Annex IV lists the maximum numbers of hectares, tonnes or animals that may be covered by the aid.

The aid shall be authorized taking account of the level of Community aid listed in Annex V and shall in no case be granted by quantity produced, with the exception of aid for cow's milk.

▼M1

2. As regards cow's milk, the aid provided for in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall be limited for each farmer to the reference quantity allocated under Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 3950/92 after any reallocation of unused reference quantities in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 2 (1) of that Regulation in respect of the milk year ending during the calendar year in question.

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Article 4

▼M2

Sweden shall submit to the Commission, before 1 June each year, as part of the information provided pursuant to Article 143(2) of the Act of Accession, information on the impact of the aid granted and in particular on production trends and the development of the means of production benefiting from the aid and of the economy of the regions concerned, as well as the impact on the protection of the environment and the preservation of the countryside referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 142(3) of the Act of Accession.

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It shall take all the steps necessary to apply this Decision and make all the necessary arrangements for monitoring the beneficiaries.

Where the quantities provided for in Annex II are exceeded, Sweden shall reduce the aid granted for the products concerned, proportionally in the following year. In the case of arable crop production, the reduction shall be applied only if the reference quantity is exceeded by more than 10% on overage for two consecutive years.

Article 5

Sweden may determine the conditions for granting aid to the different categories of beneficiaries, provided those conditions comply with the amounts and other elements laid down in this Decision and may change, subject to prior Commission authorization of the adjustment, the level of aid per product or other aspects of the aid scheme in question.

Article 6

The Commission may review this Decision, in particular on the basis of trends in the value of the national currency or of trends in the Community aid referred to in Annex V.

Any revision of the level of authorized aid in the northern areas shall apply only from the year following that in which the change concerned comes into effect.

Article 7

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Sweden.

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ANNEX I

SUB-REGION 1

Province	Commune	Parish	UAA (ha)
NORRBOTTEN	Kiruna	Karesuando, Vittangi, Jukkasjärvi	
	Boden	Edefors, Gunnarsbyn	
	Gällivare	Malmberget, Niilivaara, Hakkas, Gällivares s. del, Gällivares n. del	
	Pajala	Junosuando, Tärendö, Korpilombolo, Muonionalusta, Pajala	
	Övertorneå	Hietaniemi, Svanstein, Övertorneå	
	Överkalix	Överkalix	
	Jokkmokk	Vuollerim, Porjus, Jokkmokk	
	Arjeplog	Arjeplog	
	Arvidsjaur	Arvidsjaur	
VÄSTERBOTTEN	Skellefteå	Kalvträsk, Jörn	
	Lycksele	Örträsk, Björksele, Lycksele	
	Åsele	Fredrika, Åsele	
	Vilhelmina	Vilhelminas ö. del, Vilhelminas v. del	
	Dorotea	Risbäck, Dorotea	
	Sorsele	Gargnäs, Sorseles ö. del, Sorseles v. del	
	Storuman	Tärna, Stenseles ö. del, Stenseles v. del	
	Malå	Malå	
	Norsjö	Norsjö	
	Vindeln	Åmsele	
JÄMTLAND	Härjedalen	Lillhärdal, Ängersjö, Ytterhogdal, Överhögdal, Tännäs, Ljusnedal, Hede, Vemdalen, Älvros, Linsell, Sveg	
	Berg	Rätan, Klövsjö, Åsarne, Storsjö	
	Åre	Undersåker, Kalls ö. del, Kalls v. del, Mörsil, Åre	
	Strömsund	Tåsjö, Bodum, Fjällsjö, Frostviken, Gåxsjö, Alanäs, Ström	
	Krokom	Offerdal Siluromr., Offerdal Fjällbygden, Hotagen, Föllinges s. del, Föllinges n. del, Laxsjös s. del, Laxsjös n. del	
VÄSTERNORRLAND	Sollefteå	Ramsele, Junsele	
	Ånge	Haverö	
KOPPARBERG	Älvdalen	Idre, Särna	
GÄVLEBORG	Ljusdal	The part of the parish of Kårböle and Färila which is delimited to the north and east by the river Ljusnan, to the south by the river Ängraån and to the west by the border of the county of Jämtland	
		Total UAA in sub-region 1	79 128

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SUB-REGION 2 A

Province	Commune	Parish	UAA (ha)
NORRBOTTEN	Haparanda	Karl Gustav, Nedertorneå-Haparanda	
	Boden	Överluleå	
	Piteå	Norrfjärden, Piteås landsförsamling, Hortlax, Piteås stadsförsamling	
	Luleå	Råneå, Nederluleås s. del, Nederluleås n. del, Örnäset, Luleås domkyrkoförsamling	
	Älvsbyn	Älvsby	
	Kalix	Töre, Nederkalix	
VÄSTERBOTTEN	Skellefteå	Burträsk, Lövånger, Fällfors, Byskes s. del, Byskes n. del, Kågedalens s. del, Kågedalens n. del, Boliden, Skellefteås landsförsamlings ö. del, Skellefteås landsförsamlings v. del, Bureå, Sankt Örjan, Sankt Olov	
	Umeå	Sävars s. del, Sävars n. del, Holmön, Hörnefors, Holmsund, Ålidhem, Teg, Tavelsjö, Umeås landsförsamling, Umeås stadsförsamling	
	Vännäs	Vännäs ö. del, Vännäs v. del	
	Robertsfors	Nysätra, Robertsfors, Bygdeå	
	Vindeln	Vindeln	
	Bjurholm	Bjurholm	
	Nordmaling	Nordmaling	
JÄMTLAND	Östersund	Häggenås, Lit, Kyrkås, Lockne, Näs, Sunne	
	Berg	Myssjö, Oviken, Hackås, Berg	
	Åre	Marby, Hallen, Mattmar	
	Strömsund	Hammerdal	
	Krokom	Alsen, Aspås, Näskott	
	Bräcke	Bodsjö, Revsund, Sundsjö, Håsjö, Hällesjö, Nyhem, Bräcke	
	Ragunda	Borgvattnet	
VÄSTERNORRLAND	Örnsköldsvik	Trehörningsjö, Björna, Skorped, Anundsjö	
	Sollefteå	Edsele, Ådals-Liden	
KOPPARBERG	Mora	Venjan, Vånhus, the greater part of the parish of Mora separated from the rest of the parish	
	Älvdalen	Älvdalen	
	Malung	Transtrand, Lima, Malung	
VÄRMLAND	Arvika	Bogen	
	Torsby	Norra Ny, Dalby, Södra Finnskoga, Norra Finnskoga, Östmark, Nyskoga, Vitsand, Lekvattnet	
		Total UAA in sub-region 2 A	189 190

▼B

SUB-REGION 2 B

Province	Commune	Parish	UAA (ha)
JÄMTLAND	Östersund	Norderö, Brunflo, Marieby, Frösö, Östersund	
	Krokom	Ås, Rödön	
	Ragunda	Stugun, Fors, Ragunda	
VÄSTERNORRLAND	Örnsköldsvik	Gideå, Grundsunda, Mo, Själevad, Nätra, Sidensjö, Arnäs, Örnsköldsvik	
	Sollefteå	Sånga, Överlännäs, Boteå, Helgum, Resele, Ed, Långsele, Graninge, Multrå, Sollefteå	
	Kramfors	Ytterlännäs, Torsåker, Dal, Styrnäs, Bjärträ, Ullånger, Vibyggerå, Nordingrå, Skog, Nora, Gudmundrå	
	Sundsvall	Liden, Holm, Indal, Njurunda, Attmar, Tuna, Stöde, Selånger, Sättna, Alnö, Skön, Skönsmon, Sundsvall Gustav Adolf	
	Härnösand	Hemsö, Säbrå, Viksjö, Stigsjö, Häggdånger, Högsjö, Härnösand domkyrkoförsamling	
	Timrå	Tynderö, Hässjö, Ljustorp, Timrå	
	Ånge	Torp, Borgsjö	
GÄVLEBORG	Hudiksvall	Hög, Forsa, Norrbo, Bjuråkers s. del, Bjuråkers n. del, Delsbo, Enånger, Njutånger, Rogsta, Hälsingtuna, Idenor, Hudiksvall	
	Ljusdal	Järvsö, Ramsjö, Kårböle, Färilas ö. del, Färilas v. del, Los, Hamra, Ljusdals s. del, Ljusdals n. del	
	Nordanstig	Hassela, Bergsjö, Gnarp, Jättendal, Harmånger, Ilsbo	
		Total UAA in sub-region 2 B	122 671

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SUB-REGION 3

Province	Commune	Parish	UAA (ha)
GÄVLEBORG	Bollnäs	Arbrå, Undersvik, Hanebo, Segersta, Rengsjö, Bollnäs	
	Söderhamn	Norrala, Trönö, Mo, Bergvik, Söderala, Ljusne, Skog, Sandarne, Söderhamn	
	Gävle	Hamrånge	
	Ovanåker	Alfta, Voxna, Ovanåker	
	Ockelbo	Lingbo, Ockelbo, Åmot	
KOPPARBERG	Ludvika	Säfsnäs	
	Falun	Bjursås, Enviken, Svärdsjö	
	Mora	Sollerön, Mora	
	Orsa	Orsa	
	Rättvik	Ore, Boda, Rättvik	
	Leksand	Siljansnäs, Ål, Djura, Leksand	
	Gagnef	Floda, Gagnef, Mockfjärd	
	Vansbro	Äppelbo, Nås, Järna	
VÄRMLAND	Säffle	Långserud, Svanskog	
	Arvika	Brunskog, Mangskog, Älgå, Ny, Gunnarskog, Glava, Högerud, Stavnäs, Arvika Västra, Arvika Östra	
	Hagfors	Sunnemo, Norra Råda, Gustav Adolf, Ekshärad, Hagfors	
	Filipstad	Rämmen, Gåsborn	
	Sunne	Lysvik, Gräsmark	
	Årjäng	Östervallskog, Töcksmark, Västra Fågelvik, Trankil, Blomskog, Holmedal, Karlanda, Sillerud, Silbodal	
	Grums	Värmskog	
	Torsby	Fryksände	
	Eda	Köla, Skillingmark, Järnskog, Eda	
	Kil	Boda	
		Total UAA in sub-region 3	118453
		Overall total UAA in sub-regions 1-3	509 442

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ANNEX II

Provided for in Article 2 (2)

PRODUCTION

(tonnes)

Product	Northern sub-region				
	1	2 A	2 B	3	Total
Pigmeat	214	8 003		2 358	10 575
Eggs	900	3 700		400	5 000
Milk	54 763	216 150	121 073	92 249	484 235
Soft fruit and vegetables (1)	5 640			2 060	7 700

(1) Excluding potatoes.

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ANNEX III

Provided for in the first subparagraph of Article 3(1)

	Unit aid authorised in SEK/unit				National aid authorised per sub-region in SEK million/year				Total
	Sub-region				Sub-region				
	1	2A	2B	3	1	2A	2B	3	
Cow's milk (SEK/kg)	1,05	0,71	0,47	0,09	53,00	158,00	56,37	7,50	274,87
Goats (SEK/head) (1)	430	430	430	430	0,51	0,40		0,20	1,11
Pigs (SEK/head)									
— pigs for slaughter	222	143	143	23	0,46	13,05		0,66	14,17
— sows	843	437	437	101	0,18	2,60		0,13	2,91
Laying hens (SEK/head)	13,45	13,45	13,45	4,9	0,67	1,69		0,048	2,40
Soft fruit and vegetables (SEK/ha) (2)	2 850	2 850	2 850	1 850	1,84			0,19	2,03
Transport aid for cow's milk (SEK/kg) (3)	0,043	0,039	0,039	0,03	2,2	8,7	4,9	2,8	18,6
								Total	316,09

(1) Only goats used for milk production.
(2) Excluding potatoes.
(3) Between the farm and the collection centre or first processing centre.

▼**M2**

ANNEX IV

Provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 3(1)

(Quantities expressed in production factors)

	Number of production factors eligible for aid (heads, livestock units or hectares)				
	northern sub-region				Total
	1	2A	2B	3	
Dairy cows (heads)	8 919	34 057	19 465	14 559	77 000
Goats (heads)	1 173	936		468	2 577
Laying hens and pigs (LU) (1)	778	12 349		3 405	16 532
Soft fruit and vegetables (2)	646			104	750

(1) Where 1 laying hen is 0,01 LU, sow is 0,33 LU and 1 pig for slaughter is 0,10 LU.
(2) Excluding potatoes.

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ANNEX V

Provided for in the third subparagraph of Article 3 (1)

(1 green ECU = Skr 10,5852 / 1 book-rate ECU = Skr 9,12158)

Animal production	Area	Compensatory allowance (1) planned (ECU 180/LU or ha)		Agri-environmental measures planned Regulation (EEC) No 2078/92		Overall total
		Average per unit Skr/head	total in Skr million	Average per unit Skr/head	total in Skr million	Skr million
Cows	1	1 493 (1)	13,32	2 055 (2)	18,33	31,65
	2 A	1 462 (1)	49,79	1 848 (2)	62,94	112,73
	2 B	1 444 (1)	28,11	1 787 (2)	34,78	62,89
	3	1 382 (1)	20,12	1 634 (2)	23,79	43,91
		Total	111,34		139,84	251,18
Goats	1	246	0,29	324 (3)	0,38	0,67
	2	246	0,23	291 (3)	0,27	0,50
	3	246	0,11	276 (3)	0,134	0,24
		Total	0,63		0,78	1,41
Sows	1	612	0,13			0,13
	2	558	3,32			3,32
	3	514	0,64			0,64
		Total	4,09 (4)			4,09
Pigs for slaughter	1	90	0,14			0,14
	2	83	6,84			6,84
	3	75	1,96			1,96
		Total	8,94 (4)			8,94
		Overall total	125,00		140,62	265,62

(1) Skr 1 640 /LU (cows) and/or ha for the first 60 units, Skr 1 435 /LU between 60 and 120 units; Skr 615 /LU for over 120 units. Aid below Skr 500 per holding is not paid.

(2) Level of aid from 1999. Aid limited to 140 000 ha to be decided according to the procedures laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 2078/92.For the period 1995-1998, the aid planned is limited to 115 000 ha and amounts to Skr 2 700, Skr 2 450, Skr 2 400 and Skr 2 300 /ha respectively for sub-regions 1-3.

(3) Level of aid for the period 1995-1998 From 1999, the aid will be increased to Skr 369, Skr 323, Skr and Skr 292 / head for areas 1, 2 A, 2 B and 3 respectively.

(4) In conformity with Community legislation for this production, aid is calculated on the basis of utilized area minus the area devoted to livestock feed production.