COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 February 1997

suspending the buying-in of butter in certain Member States

(Only the Danish, German, Greek, French, Dutch, Finnish, Swedish and English texts are authentic)

(97/166/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 of 27 June 1968 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1587/96 [2], and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 7a (1) and Article 7a (3) thereof,

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 777/87 [3], as last amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, sets out the circumstances under which the buying-in of butter and skimmed-milk powder may be suspended and subsequently resumed and, where suspension takes place, the alternative measures that may be taken;

Whereas Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1547/87 [4], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1802/95 [5], lays down the criteria for opening and suspending the buying-in of butter by invitation to tender in the Member States or, in the case of the United Kingdom and Germany, in a region thereof;

Whereas Commission Decision 97/113/EC [6] suspends the buying-in of butter in certain Member States; whereas information on market prices shows that the condition laid down in Article 1 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1547/87 is currently met in Belgium, Germany, Greece, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Northern Ireland and Great Britain but is no longer met in Denmark; whereas the list of Member States in which that suspension applies must be adjusted accordingly;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Milk and Milk Products,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The buying-in of butter by invitation to tender as provided for in Article 1 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 777/87 is hereby suspended in Belgium, Germany, Greece, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

Article 2

Decision 97/113/EC is hereby repealed.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hellenic Republic, the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 20 February 1997.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 13.
[2] OJ No L 206, 16. 8. 1996, p. 21.
[3] OJ No L 78, 20. 3. 1987, p. 10.
[4] OJ No L 144, 4. 6. 1987, p. 12.
[5] OJ No L 174, 26. 7. 1995, p. 27.
[6] OJ No L 40, 11. 2. 1997, p. 22.