COMMISSION DECISION

of 8 April 1998

amending the boundaries of the mountain areas in France within the meaning of Council Regulation (EC) No 950/97

(Only the French text is authentic)

(98/280/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 950/97 of 20 May 1997 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures [1], and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas Council Directive 75/271/EEC [2], as last amended by Commission Decision 97/158/EC [3], concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 950/97 (France), lists the areas in France defined as mountain areas within the meaning of Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 950/97 and the specific criteria which resulted in their being so defined;

Whereas the French Government notified the Commission, in accordance with Article 21(3) of Regulation (EC) No 950/97, of new areas likely to be included on the Community list of mountain areas and provided information on their characteristics; whereas, furthermore, the special aid scheme existing in the mountain areas will be extended to the new areas;

Whereas, as the above notification indicates, some areas meet criteria and indices in Council Directive 76/401/EEC [4] used to identify the areas covered by Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 950/97; whereas the areas in question must therefore be included in the Community list of mountain areas within the meaning of Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 950/97;

Whereas these amendments do not increase the utilised agricultural area of the less-favoured areas in France by more than 1,5 % because the areas are already classed as less-favoured pursuant to Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 950/97;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Community list of mountain areas in France in the Annex to Directive 75/271/EEC is supplemented by the list in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 8 April 1998.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ L 142, 2. 6. 1997, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 128, 19. 5. 1975, p. 33.
[3] OJ L 60, 1. 3. 1997, p. 64.
[4] OJ L 108, 26. 4. 1976, p. 22.

ANNEX

Mountain areas pursuant to Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 950/97

Region	Department	Canton	Municipality	Total area (ha)	UAA (ha)
AQUITAINE	Pyrénées-Atlantiques	Hasparren	— Saint-Martin-d'Arberoue	1 469	1 033
		Hendaye	— Biriatou	1 104	150
		Iholdy	— Iholdy	2 163	1 371
		Labastide-Clairence	— Ayherre	2 765	1 383
			— Isturits	1 360	478
			— Labastide-Clairence	2 339	1 439
		Lasseube	— Aubertin	1 716	694
			— Lasseubetat	706	459
		Saint-Palais	— Orègue	3 643	1 876