COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 April 2000

on the payment in euro by the United Kingdom of certain expenditure resulting from legal instruments relating to the common agricultural policy

(notified under document number C(2000) 1026)

(Only the English text is authentic)

(2000/328/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2799/98 of 15 December 1998 establishing agrimonetary arrangements for the euro [1], and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 2799/98 requires non-participating Member States that contemplate paying expenditure resulting from legal instruments relating to the common agricultural policy in euro to take measures to ensure that the use of the euro does not provide a systematic advantage compared with the use of national currency.

(2) On 24 February 2000, the United Kingdom informed the Commission that it intended to make use of Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 2799/98 and communicated the measures it contemplated taking to preventing any systematic advantage resulting from the use of the euro rather than the pound sterling. That communication was received on 29 February 2000. A new version of the Annex to the abovementioned communication was forwarded on 17 March 2000 and received on 21 March 2000.

(3) The measures planned by the United Kingdom can be summarised as follows:

— operators will be paid the amounts in euro laid down in Community legislation; operators will bear the full exchange-rate risk arising from subsequent conversion into sterling,

— operators must make a standing commitment; they must apply three months in advance to be paid in euro; they are then bound for a minimum of one year; three months advance notice must also be given to withdraw from the arrangement; new payments in euro are then only possible after a one-year waiting period,

— operators may opt for payment in euro solely for export refunds or for all the measures listed in the Annex to this Decision.

(4) Initially the United Kingdom intends limiting payments in euro to market support measures that are entirely financed by the EAGGF as listed in the Annex to the communication.

(5) Article 12(4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2808/98 of 22 December 1998 laying down detailed rules for the application of the agrimonetary system for the euro in agriculture [2], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1410/1999 [3], states that the Commission has two months in which to approve the measures communicated.

[1] OJ L 349, 24.12.1998, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 349, 24.12.1998, p. 36.
[3] OJ L 164, 30.6.1999, p. 53.

(6) The measures that the United Kingdom contemplates taking are in line with the objective, namely to prevent a systematic advantage resulting from the use of the euro rather than the national currency,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The measures communicated by the United Kingdom concerning the payment in euro of expenditure resulting from the legal instruments relating to the common agricultural policy listed in the Annex hereto are hereby approved.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 17 April 2000.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Market support measures expressed and payable in euro

Scheme	Commission Regulation
Export refunds	(EC) No 800/1999
Buying-in of beef	(EEC) No 2456/93
Private storage aid for beef	(EEC) No 3445/90
Private storage aid for pigmeat	(EEC) No 3444/90
Private storage aid for sheepmeat	(EEC) No 3446/90
Buying-in of butter	(EC) No 2771/1999
Private storage aid for butter and cream	(EC) No 2771/1999
Aid for butter supplied to non-profit-making organisations	(EEC) No 2191/81
Aid for butter manufacturing	(EC) No 2571/97
Aid for concentrated butter for cooking	(EEC) No 429/90
Aid for skimmed milk used in the manufacture of casein and caseinates	(EEC) No 2921/90
Aid for school milk	(EC) No 3392/93
Buying-in of skimmed-milk powder	(EC) No 322/96
Aid for skimmed-milk powder used for animal feed	(EC) No 2799/1999
Buying-in of cereals	(EEC) No 689/92
Starch end-user refund	(EEC) No 1722/93
Whisky refunds	(EEC) No 2825/93
Aid for dehydrated fodder	(EC) No 785/95
Aid for the use of grape must	(EEC) No 2598/88
Aid for sugar in the chemical industry	(EEC) No 1729/78
Aid for refining preferential raw cane sugar	(EEC) No 3816/88
Consumption aid for apples	(EC) No 481/1999 and (EEC) No 2282/90
Dairy promotion and market expansion scheme	(EC) No 481/1999 and (EC) No 3582/93
Promotion of quality beef	(EC) No 481/1999 and (EEC) No 1318/93
Promotion of plants and floricultural products	(EC) No 481/1999 and (EC) No 779/1999