COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 10 December 2003

adopting the plan allocating to the Member States resources to be charged to the 2004 budget year for the supply of food from intervention stocks for the benefit of the most deprived persons in the Community

(notified under document number C(2003) 4868)

(2003/903/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3730/87 of 10 December 1987 laying down the general rules for the supply of food from intervention stocks to designated organisations for distribution to the most deprived persons in the Community [1], and in particular Article 6 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2799/98 of 15 December 1998 establishing agrimonetary arrangements for the euro [2], and in particular Article 3(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In accordance with Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3149/92 laying down detailed rules for the supply of food from intervention stocks for the benefit of the most deprived persons in the Community [3], the Commission must adopt a distribution plan to be financed from resources available in the 2004 budget year. The plan should lay down in particular, for each of the Member States applying the measure, the maximum financial resources available to carry out its part of the plan, and the quantity of each type of product to be withdrawn from the stocks held by the intervention agencies.

(2) The Member States involved in the plan have supplied the information required in accordance with Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 3149/92.

(3) For the purposes of resource allocation, account must be taken of experience and of the degree to which the Member States used the resources allocated to them in previous years.

(4) The intra-Community transfers necessary to bring the plan to fruition should also be authorised under the conditions provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 3149/92.

(5) To implement the plan, the operative event within the meaning of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 2799/98 should be the date on which the financial year for administration of stocks in public storage starts.

(6) To respect the plan's purpose, distribution of the products should be staggered throughout the year.

(7) In accordance with Article 2(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 3149/92 the Commission sought the advice of the major organisations familiar with the problems of the most deprived persons in the Community when drawing up the plan.

(8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinions of all the relevant committees,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the 2004 financial year, foodstuffs for distribution to the most deprived persons in the Community under Regulation (EEC) No 3730/87 shall be supplied in accordance with the annual distribution plan set out in Annex I.

Article 2

The intra-Community transfer operations listed in Annex II are hereby authorised.

Article 3

To implement the annual plan, the date of the operative event referred to in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 2799/98 shall be 1 October 2003.

[1] OJ L 352, 15.12.1987, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2535/95 (OJ L 260, 31.10.1995, p. 3).
[2] OJ L 349, 24.12.1998, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 313, 30.10.1992, p. 50. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1921/2002 (OJ L 293, 29.10.2002, p. 9).

Article 4

Where the quantity of products distributed exceeds 500 tonnes, participating Member States shall insert suitable provisions in the invitations to tender to ensure that the quantities shown in the table of Annex I(b) are the subject of several distribution operations during the course of the annual plan so as to take account of the capacity of the charitable institutions.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 10 December 2003.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Annual distribution plan for 2004

(a) *Financial resources made available to implement the plan in each Member State*

(EUR)

Member State	Allocation
Belgium	3 439 000
Denmark	168 000
Greece	10 899 000
Spain	37 286 000
France	47 453 000
Ireland	207 000
Italy	56 481 000
Luxembourg	42 000
Portugal	14 146 000
Finland	2 879 000
Total	173 000 000

(b) *Quantity of each type of product to be withdrawn from Community intervention stocks for distribution in each Member State subject to the maximum amounts laid down in (a)*

(tonnes)

Member State	Product				
	Cereals	Rice (paddy rice)	Butter	Milk powder	Beef and veal (carcase equivalent)
Belgium	7 000	2 000	600		
Denmark					53
Greece	26 000	15 630		1 500	
Spain	70 000	24 520	6 430		
France	58 000	27 077		15 200	
Ireland			60		
Italy	90 000	15 000	12 248		
Portugal	15 000	15 000	2 278		
Finland	15 000			595	
Total	281 000	99 227	21 616	17 295	53

(c) *Allocation for Luxembourg with a view to purchases on the Community market of:*

— milk powder: EUR 26 000,

— beef and veal: EUR 16 000.

ANNEX II

Intra-Community transfers authorised under the plan for 2004

Product	Quantity (tonnes)	Holder	Consignee
Cereals	26 000	ONIC, France	Ministry of Agriculture, Greece
Cereals	70 000	ONIC, France	FEGA, Spain
Cereals	15 000	ONIC, France	INGA, Portugal
Cereals	90 000	ONIC, France	AGEA, Italy
Rice	2 000	Ente Risi, Italy	BIRB, Belgium
Rice	15 000	FEGA, Spain	INGA, Portugal
Milk powder	15 200	BIRB, Belgium	Ministry of Agriculture, France