REGULATION (EEC) No 1856/74 OF THE COUNCIL

of 16 July 1974

laying down general rules governing the sale of beef and veal at reduced prices to certain categories of consumer

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 and 209 thereof;

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 (1) of 27 June 1968 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1855/74 (2), and in particular Article 22a (2) thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas the situation obtaining on the market in beef and veal within the Community has for several months been characterized by abnormally low prices which have fallen to a level below that of the intervention price; whereas this situation has led to the existence of large stocks following intervention buying;

Whereas there is a risk that this situation may deteriorate in coming the months when animals are removed from pasture;

Whereas the current disturbance is aggravated because it is technically impossible to buy into intervention sufficient quantities to relieve the market; whereas, releases from storage will not be sufficient to prevent stocks increasing in the near future, in particular because of the limited outlets for frozen meat bought into intervention;

Whereas, other measures must accordingly be taken to facilitate sales of temporary surpluses of beef and veal; whereas the sale of meat at reduced prices to certain categories of consumers, who purchase a limited amount of such meat, constitutes such a measure, since it enables them to consume a greater quantity of meat than hitherto; whereas, to this end, provision should be made for the granting of aid to such consumers;

Whereas the aim of the operation entails taking appropriate measures to ensure that the meat is used as intended;

Whereas detailed rules should be laid down for controlling such use and for implementing the measures required for the operation envisaged;

Whereas provision should be made for the Member States to participate in the financing of this operation and for the participation of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund to be limited accordingly to 50 % of the expenditure involved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Member States are hereby authorized to grant aid to enable recipients of social welfare benefits to purchase beef and veal at reduced prices.

Article 2

The detailed rules for the application of this Regulation shall, in particular, cover the amount of the aid, controls to ensure that the meat is used as intended and, where appropriate, the selling price and characteristics of the meat.

Article 3

By way of derogation from the arrangements set out in Article 3 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 (3) of 21 April 1970 on the financing of the common agricultural policy, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2788/72 (4), the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund shall finance only 50 % of expenditure incurred in the sale provided for in this Regulation.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

It shall apply until 6 April 1975.

(1) OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 24.
(2) See page 14 of this Official Journal.
(3) OJ No L 94, 28. 4. 1970, p. 13.
(4) OJ No L 295, 30. 12. 1972, p. 1.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 16 July 1974.

For the Council

The President

Christian BONNET