COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) No 276/78

of 10 February 1978

opening an invitation to tender for the mobilization of round grain milled rice as food aid for the Republic of Lebanon

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 of 21 June 1976 on the common organization of the market in rice (1), as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1158/77 (2),

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2750/75 of 29 October 1975 laying down the conditions for the mobilization of cereals as food aid (3), and in particular Article 6 thereof,

Whereas on 8 February 1977 the Council of the European Communities declared that it proposed, by way of Community action, to grant the equivalent of 5 161 tonnes of husked rice (in other words, 4 000 tonnes of round grain milled rice) to the Republic of Lebanon under its 1976/77 food-aid programme ;

Whereas pursuant to Article 3 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2750/75 the goods may be purchased anywhere on the Community market ;

Whereas proposed invitation to tender should be for supply of the products delivered in the ship's hold at the port of unloading ;

Whereas in view of the different monetary circumstances in the Member States, the observation of these conditions is not guaranteed by the application of exchange rates applicable in the framework of the common agricultural policy since monetary compensatory amounts do not apply in the rice sector ; whereas it is advisable to take account of the monetary situation as regards different offers ;

Whereas the award under the invitation to tender must be made to the tenderer offering the best terms ;

Whereas, should *force majeure* make it impossible to complete the operation in question within the time limits specified, it must be made clear who is to bear the liability for any resulting costs ;

Whereas provision should be made for security to be given for the purpose of guaranteeing that the obligations arising by virtue of participation in the invitation to tender will be fulfilled ;

Whereas the Italian intervention agency should be made responsible for the tendering procedure in question ;

Whereas the Commission must be informed quickly of the tenders submitted in response to the invitation and of those accepted by the intervention agency ;

Whereas the Monetary Committee will be consulted ; whereas, in view of the urgency, the measures envisaged should be adopted in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 3 (2) of Council Regulation No 129 on the value of the unit of account and the exchange rates to be applied for the purposes of the common agricultural policy (4), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2543/73 (5), and in particular Article 3 thereof,

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

1. Tenders are hereby invited for the supply to the Republic of Lebanon, by way of Community food-aid action, of 4 000 tonnes of round grain milled rice.

2. The tendering procedure shall take place in Italy in one lot. The product shall be mobilized on the Community market. The product shall be loaded for departure from any Community port.

3. The invitation to tender provided for in paragraph 1 is for supply of products delivered in the ship's hold at the port of unloading (Beirut).

The recipient country shall bear all costs subsequent to delivery of the goods, including unloading costs (such as unstowing, hoisting and reception) and any lighterage costs.

(1) OJ No L 166, 25. 6. 1976, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 136, 2. 6. 1977, p. 13.
(3) OJ No L 281, 1. 11. 1975, p. 89.
(4) OJ No 106, 30. 10. 1962, p. 2553/62.
(5) OJ No L 263, 19. 9. 1973, p. 1.

4. The successful tenderer shall deliver the product specified in paragraph 1 in new jute sacks of a net capacity of 50 kilograms.

Minimum weight of the sacks shall be 600 grams. The following shall be printed on the sacks :

'Riz blanchi rond — Don de la CEE au Liban — Distribution gratuite'.

To allow for the possibility of re-bagging, the successful tenderer shall supply 2 % of new empty sacks, of the same quality as those containing the goods but with the printing followed by a capital letter 'R'.

Article 2

1. The decision on tenders received in response to the invitation provided for in Article 1 shall be taken on 27 February 1978.

2. The closing date for the submission of tenders shall be 27 February 1978, at 12 noon.

3. The notice of invitation to tender shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities,* not less than nine days before the closing date for the submission of tenders.

Article 3

1. The prices offered must be expressed in the currency of the Member State in which the invitation to tender was issued.

2. For the purpose of rendering the tenders comparable, the prices shall, where appropriate, be corrected by the accession compensatory amount applicable on the closing date for submission of tenders to exports from the Member State mentioned in the tender.

3. The rates used for converting into units of account those offers made in national currencies shall be :

— the central rate in cases where the relevant currency is held at any given moment within a band of 2·25 %,

— in other cases, the average spot exchange rate during the period from Wednesday of one week to Tuesday of the following week and which immediately precedes the time limit for the submission of tenders.

Article 4

The contract shall be awarded to the tenderer offering the best terms.

However, if the tenders submitted do not appear to reflect normal market prices and costs, the intervention agency may cancel the invitation to tender.

Article 5

1. The successful tenderer shall give security of a value of 10 units of account per tonne ; the security is intended to gurantee that the operations specified in Article 1 are duly completed. The security shall be forfeit if those operations are not carried out within the prescribed time limit, save as regards quantities not delivered owing to *force majeure.*

2. The security provided for in paragraph 1 may be given in the form of a cash deposit or of a guarantee issued by a credit institution conforming to the criteria laid down by the Member State.

Article 6

1. The round grain milled rice referred to in Article 1 to be supplied to the Republic of Lebanon must meet the following requirements :

— moisture : 15 % ;
— broken rice : 5 % maximum ;
— chalky grains : 5 % maximum ;
— grains striated with red : 3 % maximum ;
— spotted grains : 1·5 % maximum ;
— stained grains : 1 % maximum ;
— yellow grains : 0·050 % maximum ;
— amber grains : 0·20 % maximum.

Rice not meeting these requirements shall be refused.

2. Tenders for supply to the Republic of Lebanon of the round grain milled rice referred to in Article 1 must relate to a product with the following characteristics :

— moisture : 15 % ;
— broken rice : 5 % maximum ;
— chalky grains : 5 % maximum ;
— grains striated with red : 3 % maximum ;
— spotted grains : 1·5 % maximum ;
— stained grains : 1 % maximum ;
— yellow grains : 0·050 % maximum ;
— amber grains : 0·20 % maximum.

Article 7

1. The Italian intervention agency shall be responsible for the operations relating to the invitation to tender provided for by this Regulation.

2. It shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the list of firms which have responded to the invitation to tender, specifying the terms of each tender together with the name and business name of the successful tenderer.

3. Where the customs export formalities for the mobilized product are completed in a Member State other than that in which the invitation to tender is issued, the intervention agency of the latter Member State shall be responsible for the operations following tendering, including payment to the successful tenderer.

In such case, the intervention agency choosing the successful tenderer shall immediately inform the intervention agency of the Member State concerned and shall supply it with all the information which it may require.

Furthermore, the amount of the successful tender shall be paid after it has been converted using the average of the spot rates referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 3 (2) to the tenderer in the currency of the Member State in which the operations relating to the tendering are completed.

4. The intervention agency shall ask that the tenderer specifies the following information :

(a) after each shipment, a statement giving details of the quantities loaded, the quality of the products and their packaging ;

(b) the date of the departure of the ships ; the expected date of arrival of the products at their destination ;

(c) all possible contingencies which might occur during transportation of the products.

The intervention agency shall transmit the information provided for to the Commission as soon as it is received.

5. When the intervention agency responsible for the operations relating to tendering is not the intervention agency which appoints the successful tenderer, it shall send as soon as possible to the latter the information necessary for releasing the security.

Article 8

As regards this tender the intervention agency is authorized to make an initial payment of 80 % of the value of the quantity given in the bill of lading, on presentation of that document and subject to the taking of a security for an amount equal to the initial payment.

Article 9

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

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

Done at Brussels, 10 February 1978.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Vice-President