COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1813/95

of 26 July 1995

relating to a standing invitation to tender to determine levies and/or refunds on exports of white sugar

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 of 30 June 1981 on the common organization of the markets in the sugar sector [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1101/95 [2], and in particular Articles 13 (2), 17 (5) and (15), 20 (3) and the second subparagraph of Article 39 thereof,

Whereas, in conformity with Article 20 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1068/93 of 30 April 1993 on detailed rules for determining and applying the agricultural conversion rates [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1053/94 [4], the amounts of tenders submitted within the framework of an invitation to tender organized by virtue of a measure relating to the common agricultural policy will be expressed in ecus; whereas Article 3 (3) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1464/95 of 27 June 1995 on special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences in the sugar sector [5], provides that the amounts of the successful tenders shall be expressed in ecus on the licences and other documents certifying those amounts; whereas the value of the ecu shall be determined in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92 [6], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 150/95 [7];

Whereas, in view of the situation on the Community and world sugar markets, a standing invitation to tender should be issued as soon as possible for the export of white sugar in respect of the 1995/96 marketing year which, having regard to possible fluctuations in world prices for sugar, must provide for the determination of export levies and/or export refunds;

Whereas, the general rules governing invitations to tender for the purpose of determining export refunds for sugar were established by Article 17 a of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81;

Whereas, in view of the specific nature of the transactions involved, special detailed rules should be laid down in this Regulation, whilst those provided for in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 394/70 of 2 March 1970 on detailed rules for governing export refunds on sugar [8], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2529/94 [9], should not apply; whereas, for the same reasons, appropriate provisions should be laid down with regard to export licences issued in connection with the standing invitation to tender and there should be a derogation from Commission Regulation (EC) No 1464/95; whereas, however, the provisions of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88 of 16 November 1988 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences and advance fixing certificates for agricultural products [10], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1199/95 [11], and those of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 120/89 of 19 January 1989 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the export levies and charges on agricultural products [12], as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1431/93 [13], should remain applicable;

Whereas Article 13 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1068/93 provides that where agricultural conversion rates are fixed in advance, on application by the party concerned, on the terms referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 6 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92, such application must be lodged at the same time as the submission of the tender as part of a tendering procedure; whereas, for reasons specific to the sugar market, when an operator intends to take up the option of an advance fixing of an agricultural conversion rate, his decision shall be made only when the application for the export certificate in question is lodged; whereas in practice he may only apply for advance fixing of the agricultural conversion rate in question after having been declared successful tenderer in respect of the levy or refund for the quantity of sugar indicated in his tender; whereas in the case of the present tendering procedure, a derogation must be made from the said provisions, leaving the tenderer the option of applying for advance fixing of the agricultural conversion rate at the time when the application for the export certificate in question in lodged;

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 974/95 of 28 April 1995 on certain transitional measures required to implement the Uruguay Round Agricultural Agreement [14] provides that the export licences for the sugar sector issued during the two months before 1 October 1995 shall be issued for quantities which correspond to

[1] OJ No L 177, 1. 7. 1981, p. 4.
[2] OJ No L 110, 17. 5. 1995, p. 1.
[3] OJ No L 108, 1. 5. 1993, p. 106.
[4] OJ No L 107, 12. 5. 1995, p. 4.
[5] OJ No L 144, 28. 6. 1995, p. 14.
[6] OJ No L 387, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.
[7] OJ No L 22, 31. 1. 1995, p. 1.
[8] OJ No L 50, 4. 3. 1970, p. 1.
[9] OJ No L 269, 20. 10. 1994, p. 14.
[10] OJ No L 331, 2. 12. 1988, p. 1.
[11] OJ No L 119, 30. 5. 1995, p. 4.
[12] OJ No L 16, 20. 1. 1989, p. 19.
[13] OJ No L 140, 11. 6. 1993, p. 27.
[14] OJ No L 97, 29. 4. 1995, p. 66.

the quantities normally disposed of during those two months and which do not fall within the limits laid down by the Agricultural Agreement; whereas in so far as the sugar sector is concerned, a quantity of 667 500 tonnes of sugar is to be considered as corresponding to the quantities normally disposed of by way of licences issued with advance fixing of the refund during the course of the last three years in respect of the two months preceding the month of October; whereas provision should consequently be made for the licences for the said quantity, which will be committed first of all for export under this tender, to be considered as transitional licences;

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. A standing invitation to tender shall be issued in order to determine export levies and/or export refunds on white sugar. During the period of validity of this standing invitation, partial invitations to tender shall be issued.

2. The standing invitation to tender shall remain open until a date to be determined later.

Article 2

The standing invitation to tender and the partial invitation shall be conducted in accordance with Article 17 a of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 and with the following provisions. Regulation (EEC) No 394/70 shall not apply.

Article 3

1. The Member States shall establish a notice of the invitation to tender. The notice of the invitation to tender shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Member States may also publish the notice, or have it published elsewhere.

2. The notice shall indicate in particular the terms of the invitation to tender.

3. The notice may be amended during the period of validity of the standing invitation to tender. It shall be so amended if the terms of the invitation to tender are modified during that period.

Article 4

1. The period during which tenders may be submitted in response to the first partial invitation to tender:

(a) shall begin on 27 July 1995;

(b) shall end on 3 August 1995 at 10.30 a.m.

2. The periods during which tenders may be submitted in response to the second and subsequent partial invitations:

(a) shall begin on the first working day following the end of the preceding period;

(b) shall end at 10.30 a.m. on the Wednesday of the following week.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 (b), the period for the submission of tenders which was to end on:

— Wednesday 16 August 1995 shall end on Thursday 17 August 1995 at 10.30 a.m.,

— Wednesday 1 November 1995 shall end on Tuesday 31 October 1995 at 10.30 a.m.,

— Wednesday 3 January 1996 shall end on Thursday 4 January 1996 at 10.30 a.m.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, no partial invitations to tender will be issued on Wednesday 27 December 1995 and Wednesday 3 April 1996.

5. The time limits laid down in this Regulation are expressed in Belgian time.

Article 5

1. Offers in connection with this tender must be in writing, and must be either delivered by hand, against a receipt, to the competent authority in a Member State, or addressed to that authority by registered letter, telex, telegram or fax message.

2. An offer must indicate:

(a) the reference number of the invitation to tender to which the offer relates;

(b) the name and address of the tenderer;

(c) the quantity of white sugar to be exported;

(d) the amount of the export levy or, where applicable, of the export refund, per 100 kilgorams of white sugar, expressed in ecus with three decimal places;

(e) the minimum amount of the security to be lodged covering the quantity of sugar indicated in (c), expressed in the currency of the Member State in which the tender is submitted.

3. An offer shall be valid only if:

(a) the quantity to be exported is not less than 250 tonnes of white sugar;

(b) proof is furnished before expiry of the time limit for the submission of tenders that the tenderer has lodged the security indicated in the tender;

(c) it includes a declaration by the tenderer that if this tender is successful he will, within the period laid down in Article 12 (b), apply for an export licence or licences in respect of the quantities of white sugar to be exported;

(d) it includes a declaration by the tenderer that if his tender is successful he will:

— where the obligation to export resulting from the export licence referred to in Article 12 (b) is not fulfilled, supplement the security by payment of the amount referred to in Article 13 (4), and

— within 30 days following the expiry of the export licence in question, notify the agency which issued the licence of the quantity or quantities in respect of which the licence was not used;

(e) it contains all the information required under paragraph 2.

4. A tender may stipulate that it is to be regarded as having been submitted only if:

(a) the minimum export levy or, where applicable, the maximum export refund is fixed on the day of the expiry of the period for the submission of the tenders in question;

(b) the tender, if successful, relates to all or a specified part of the tendered quantity.

5. A tender which is not submitted in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation, or which contains terms other than those indicated in the present invitation to tender, shall not be considered.

6. Once submitted, a tender may not be withdrawn.

Article 6

1. A security of ECU 11 per 100 kilograms of white sugar to be exported under this invitation to tender must be lodged by each tenderer. Without prejudice to Article 13 (4), this security shall in the case of successful tenderers and at the time of the application referred to in Article 12 (b) become the security for the export licence.

2. The security may be lodged at the tenderer's choice, either in cash or in the form of a guarantee given by an establishment complying with criteria laid down by the Member State in which the tender is submitted.

3. Except in cases of *force majeure* the security referred to in paragraph 1 will be released:

(a) to unsuccessful tenderers in respect of the quantity for which no award has been made;

(b) to successful tenderers who have not applied for the relevant export licence within the period referred to in Article 12 (b), to the extent of ECU 10 per 100 kilograms of white sugar.

However, this part of the releasable security shall be reduced by the amount of representing the difference existing, as applicable:

— between the maximum amount of the export refund fixed for the partial invitation concerned and the maximum amount of the export refund fixed for the following partial invitation when the latter amount is higher than the former,

or

— between the minimum amount of the export levy fixed for the partial invitation concerned and the minimum amount of the export levy fixed for the following partial invitation when the latter amount is lower than the former;

(c) to successful tenderers for the quantity for which they have fulfilled, within the meaning of Articles 29 (b) and 30 (1) (b) (i) of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88, the export obligation resulting from the licence referred to under Article 12 (b) in accordance with the terms of Article 33 of that Regulation.

The part of the security or the security which is not released shall be forfeit in respect of the quantity of sugar for which the corresponding obligations have not been fulfilled.

4. In case of *force majeure,* the competent authority of the Member State concerned shall take such action as it considers necessary having regard to the circumstances invoked by the party concerned.

Article 7

1. Tenders shall be examined in private by the competent authority concerned. The persons present at the examination shall be under an obligation not to disclose any particulars relating thereto.

2. Tenders shall be communicated to the Commission forthwith and in such manner that the tenders remain anonymous.

Article 8

1. After the tenders received have been examined, a maximum quantity may be fixed for the partial invitation concerned.

2. A decision may be taken to make no award under a specific partial invitation to tender.

Article 9

1. In the light of the current state and foreseeable development of the Community and world sugar markets, there shall be fixed either:

— a minimum export levy,

or

— a maximum export refund.

2. Subject to Article 10, where a minimum export levy is fixed, a contract shall be awarded to every tenderer whose tender quotes a rate of levy equal to or greater than such minimum levy.

3. Subject to Article 10, where a maximum export refund is fixed, a contract shall be awarded to every tenderer whose tender quotes a rate of refund equal to or less than such maximum refund and to every tenderer who has tendered for an export levy.

Article 10

1. Where a maximum quantity has been fixed for a partial invitation to tender:

— if a minimum levy is fixed, a contract shall be awarded to the tenderer whose tender quotes the highest levy; if the maximum quantity is not fully covered by that award, awards shall be made to other tenderers in descending order of levies quoted until the entire maximum quantity has been accounted for,

— if a maximum refund is fixed, contracts shall be awarded in accordance with the first indent; if after such awards a quantity is still outstanding, or if there are no tenders quoting an export levy, contracts shall be awarded in ascending order of refunds quoted until the entire maximum quantity has been accounted for, to tenderers quoting a refund.

2. However, where an award to a particular tenderer in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 would result in the maximum quantity being exceeded, that award shall be limited to such quantity as is still available. Where two or more tenderers quote the same levy or the same refund and awards to all of them would result in the maximum quantity being exceeded, then the quantity available shall be awarded as follows:

— by being divided among the tenderers concerned in proportion to the total quantities in each of their tenders, or

— by being apportioned among the tenderers concerned by reference to a maximum tonnage to be fixed for each of them, or

— by the drawing of lots.

Article 11

1. The competent authority of the Member State concerned shall immediately notify applicants of the result of their participation in the invitation to tender. In addition, that authority shall send successful tenderers a statement of award.

2. The statement of award shall indicate at least:

(a) the reference number of the invitation to which the tender relates;

(b) the quantity of white sugar to be exported;

(c) the amount expressed in ecus of the export levy to be charged, or where applicable of the export refund to be granted per 100 kilograms of white sugar of the quantity referred to in (b).

Article 12

Every successful tenderer shall have:

(a) the right to receive in the circumstances referred to under (b), in respect of the quantity awarded, an export licence indicating, as appropriate, the export levy or the export refund quoted in his tender;

(b) the obligation to lodge, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88, an application for an export licence in respect of that quantity, the application not being revocable and Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 120/89 not applying in such a case. The application shall be lodged in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88, not later than:

— the last working day preceding the date of the partial invitation to tender to be held the following week,

or

— if no partial invitation to tender is due to be held that week, the last working day of the following week;

(c) the obligation to export the tendered quantity and, if this obligation is not fulfilled, to pay, where necessary, the amount referred to in Article 13 (4).

This right and these obligations are not transferable.

Article 13

1. The first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1464/95 shall not apply to the white sugar to be exported in accordance with this Regulation.

2. Export licences issued in connection with a partial invitation to tender shall be valid from the day of issue until the end of the fifth calendar month following that in which the partial invitation was issued.

However, export licences issued in respect of the partial invitations held from 1 May 1996 will be valid only until 30 September 1996.

3. The export licences issued in respect of the partial invitations held between 1 August and 30 September 1995 will be usable only from 15 October 1995.

4. Except in cases of *force majeure,* if the obligation to export resulting from the export licence referred to under Article 12 (b) has not been fulfilled and if the security referred to in Article 6 is less than :

(a) the export levy indicated on the licence reduced by the levy referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 20 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 in force on the last day of validity of the said licence ;

or

(b) the sum of the export levy indicated on the licence and the refund referred to in Article 17 a (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 in force on the last day of validity of the said licence ;

or

(c) the export refund referred to in Article 17 a (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 in force on the last day of validity of the licence reduced by the refund indicated on the said licence,

then, for the quantity in respect of which the said obligation was not fulfilled, the licence holder shall be charged an amount equal to the difference between the result of the valuation made under (a), (b) or (c), as the case may be, and the security referred to in Article 6 (1).

Article 14

If the tenderer intends to apply for advance fixing of agricultural conversion rate under this standing invitation to tender, the provisions of the second indent of Article 13 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1068/93 shall not apply.

Article 15

If the prices fixed in ecus pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 are amended during the interval between the day of expiry of the period for submission of tenders and the day of export, the amounts of the export refunds and the export levies fixed under the terms of this invitation to tender before 1 July 1996, for the sugar exported from that date, shall be adjusted.

2. For the adjustment referred to in paragraph 1 :

(a) in the event of the fixing of an intervention price for white sugar applicable with effect from 1 July 1996 which is greater than that in force on 30 June 1996 the export refund and the export levy shall be adjusted by an amount equal to the difference expressed in ecus per 100 kilograms existing between the intervention price for white sugar applicable with effect from 1 July 1996 and the intervention price for that sugar in force on 30 June 1996 ;

(b) in the event of the fixing of an intervention price for white sugar applicable with effect from 1 July 1996 which is lower than that in force on 30 June 1996, the export refund and the export levy shall be adjusted by an amount equal to the difference expressed in ecus per 100 kilograms existing between the intervention price for white sugar in force on 30 June 1996 and the intervention price for that sugar applicable with effect from 1 July 1996.

3. For the calculation of the differences referred to in paragraph 2, the intervention prices in question shall be increased by the corresponding storage levy referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 8 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81.

4. For the purpose of applying this Article, the Member State issuing the relevant export licence shall at the time of issue complete section 'special particulars' by adding the following :

'to be adjusted in accordance with adjudication Regulation (EC) No 1813/95 for exports which take place after 30 June 1996.'

5. Upon presentation by the holder of the export licence concerned, or by the assignee when the licence has been transferred, to the Member State that issued it and before the customs formalities for the quantities concerned have been carried out, that Member State shall enter the refund rate after adjustment in the section 'special particulars' and shall duly certify and stamp that section.

6. Member States shall inform the Commission as quickly as possible of the quantities of sugar for which an adjustment under this Article has been made.

Article 16

When white sugar of CN code 1701 99 10 produced from beet or cane harvested in the Community or from raw sugar imported into the Community under preferential arrangements, is stocked in bulk under a customs warehousing or free zone procedure for advance payment of the refund as defined by Council Regulation (EEC) No 565/80 [1], that sugar may, in addition to the operations referred to in Article 28 (4) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3665/87 [2], be mixed in the same place of storage with other white sugar of the same CN code 1701 99 10, having the same origin as indicated above, of the same commercial quality and possessing equivalent technical characteristics.

Article 17

For the application of Regulation (EC) No 974/95, the applications for licences and the licences issued under this invitation to tender shall bear the endorsement 'transitional licences — Regulation (EC) No 974/95' for the first 667 500 tonnes committed for export between 1 August 1995 and 30 September 1995.

These provisions shall not be applicable to the licences showing a refund fixed in accordance with Article 17 a (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81.

Article 18

This Regulation shall enter into force on 27 July 1995.

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

Done at Brussels, 26 July 1995.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ No L 177, 1. 7. 1981, p. 4.
[2] OJ No L 110, 17. 5. 1995, p. 1.