COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1884/97

of 26 September 1997

amending Regulation (EC) No 1339/97 opening an invitation to tender for the refund or the tax for the export of common wheat to all third countries

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organization of the market in cereals (1), as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 923/96 (2),

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1501/95 of 29 June 1995 laying down certain detailed rules for the application of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 on the granting of export refunds on cereals and the measures to be taken in the event of disturbance on the market for cereals (3), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1259/97 (4), and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 1883/97 (5) opens an invitation to tender relating to the export of common wheat to Ceuta, Melilla and certain ACP States; whereas the destinations laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1339/97 (6) should therefore be amended;

Whereas Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3665/87 of 27 November 1987 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the system of export refunds on agricultural products (7), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 815/97 (8), requires that, where refunds vary according to destination, payment of the refund be made conditional *inter alia* on presentation of proof that the product has been imported in its unaltered state into the third country or into one of the third countries for which the refund applies; whereas that proof is required under the invitation to tender opened by Regulation (EC) No 1883/97 for exports of common wheat to Ceuta, Melilla and certain ACP States; whereas exports to other third countries under the invitation to tender opened by Regulation (EC) No 1339/97 are carried out under less favourable conditions; whereas the risk of fraud is therefore small; whereas, in order to avoid obstructing these exports to other third countries, proof of arrival should not be required; whereas certificates drawn up by the competent authorities of the Member States stating that the products have left the territory of the Community on board a vessel suitable for sea transport may be considered to provide a sufficient guarantee;

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

Regulation (EC) No 1339/97 is amended as follows:

1. The title is replaced by the following:

   'opening an invitation to tender for the refund or the tax for the export of common wheat to all third countries except Ceuta, Melilla and certain ACP States.'

2. Article 1 (2) is replaced by the following:

   '2. The invitation to tender shall cover common wheat for export to all third countries except Ceuta, Melilla and ACP States listed in Annex III.'

3. The following Article 4a is added after Article 4:

   'Article 4a

   Notwithstanding Article 18 of Regulation (EEC) No 3665/87, proof of completion of customs formalities for release for consumption shall not be required for payment of refunds fixed in a contract awarded under this tender, in so far as the operator provides proof that a quantity of at least 1 500 tonnes of cereal product have left the customs territory of the Community on board a vessel suitable for sea transport.'

4. The title of Annex I is replaced by the following:

   'Weekly tender for the refund or the tax for the export of common wheat to all third countries except Ceuta, Melilla and certain ACP States.'

5. The following Annex III is added:

(1) OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.
(2) OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.
(3) OJ L 147, 30. 6. 1995, p. 7.
(4) OJ L 174, 2. 7. 1997, p. 10.
(5) See page 69 of this Official Journal.
(6) OJ L 184, 12. 7. 1997, p. 7.
(7) OJ L 351, 14. 12. 1987, p. 1.
(8) OJ L 116, 6. 5. 1997, p. 22.

'ANNEX III

Groups of ACP States signatories to the Lomé Convention

Group I	Group II	Group III
Mauritania	Chad	Seychelles
Mali	Central African Republic	Comoros
Niger	Benin	Madagascar
Senegal	Cameroon	Mauritius
Burkina Faso	Equatorial Guinea	Angola
Gambia	São Tomé and Príncipe	Zambia
Guinea Bissau	Gabon	Malawi
Guinea	Congo	Mozambique
Cape Verde	Democratic Republic of Congo	Namibia
Sierra Leone	Rwanda	Botswana
Liberia	Burundi	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire		Lesotho
Ghana		Swaziland
Togo		Djibouti
		Ethiopia
		Eritrea'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following 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, 26 September 1997.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission