COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2710/98
of 15 December 1998
fixing the import duties in the cereals sector

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 1249/96 of 28 June 1996 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 as regards import duties in the cereals sector [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2519/98 [4], and in particular Article 2 (1) thereof,

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 provides that the rates of duty in the Common Customs Tariff are to be charged on import of the products referred to in Article 1 of that Regulation; whereas, however, in the case of the products referred to in paragraph 2 of that Article, the import duty is to be equal to the intervention price valid for such products on importation and increased by 55 %, minus the cif import price applicable to the consignment in question; however, that duty may not exceed the rate of duty in the Common Customs Tariff;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 10 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, the cif import prices are calculated on the basis of the representative prices for the product in question on the world market;

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 lays down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 as regards import duties in the cereals sector;

Whereas the import duties are applicable until new duties are fixed and enter into force; whereas they also remain in force in cases where no quotation is available for the reference exchange referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 during the two weeks preceding the next periodical fixing;

Whereas, in order to allow the import duty system to function normally, the representative market rates recorded during a reference period should be used for calculating the duties;

Whereas application of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 results in import duties being fixed as set out in the Annex to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The import duties in the cereals sector referred to in Article 10 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 shall be those fixed in Annex I to this Regulation on the basis of the information given in Annex II.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 16 December 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 15 December 1998.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.
[2] OJ L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.
[3] OJ L 161, 29. 6. 1996, p. 125.
[4] OJ L 315, 25. 11. 1998, p. 7.

ANNEX I

Import duties for the products covered by Article 10(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92

CN code	Description	Import duty by land inland waterway or sea from Mediterranean, the Black Sea or Baltic Sea ports (ECU/tonne)	Import duty by air or by sea from other ports (2) (ECU/tonne)
1001 10 00	Durum wheat high quality	40,07	30,07
	medium quality (1)	50,07	40,07
1001 90 91	Common wheat seed	39,37	29,37
1001 90 99	Common high quality wheat other than for sowing (3)	39,37	29,37
	medium quality	76,87	66,87
	low quality	97,04	87,04
1002 00 00	Rye	101,20	91,20
1003 00 10	Barley, seed	101,20	91,20
1003 00 90	Barley, other (3)	101,20	91,20
1005 10 90	Maize seed other than hybrid	103,88	93,88
1005 90 00	Maize other than seed (3)	103,88	93,88
1007 00 90	Grain sorghum other than hybrids for sowing	101,20	91,20

(1) In the case of durum wheat not meeting the minimum quality requirements for durum wheat of medium quality, referred to in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1249/96, the duty applicable is that fixed for low-quality common wheat.

(2) For goods arriving in the Community via the Atlantic Ocean or via the Suez Canal (Article 2(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96), the importer may benefit from a reduction in the duty of:

— ECU 3 per tonne, where the port of unloading is on the Mediterranean Sea, or

— ECU 2 per tonne, where the port of unloading is in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Finland or the Atlantic Coasts of the Iberian Peninsula.

(3) The importer may benefit from a flat-rate reduction of ECU 14 or 8 per tonne, where the conditions laid down in Article 2(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 are met.

ANNEX II

Factors for calculating duties

(period from 1 December 1998 to 14 December 1998)

1. Averages over the two-week period preceding the day of fixing:

Exchange quotations	Minneapolis	Kansas-City	Chicago	Chicago	Minneapolis	Minneapolis	Minneapolis
Product (% proteins at 12 % humidity)	HRS2. 14 %	HRW2. 11,5 %	SRW2	YC3	HAD2	Medium quality (**)	US barley 2
Quotation (ECU/tonne)	113,54	99,68	88,40	74,67	136,65 (*)	126,65 (*)	75,52 (*)
Gulf premium (ECU/tonne)	—	10,41	1,52	8,40	—	—	—
Great Lakes premium (ECU/tonne)	23,80	—	—	—	—	—	—

(*) Fob Duluth.

(**) A discount of ECU 10 per tonne (Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96).

2. Freight/cost: Gulf of Mexico — Rotterdam: ECU 10,88 per tonne; Great Lakes — Rotterdam: ECU 21,13 per tonne.

3. Subsidy within the meaning of the third paragraph of Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96: ECU 0,00 per tonne (HRW2)
ECU 0,00 per tonne (SRW2).