COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 488/98

of 27 February 1998

opening import quotas in respect of special preferential raw cane sugar from the ACP States for supply to refineries in the period 1 March to 30 June 1998

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 market in sugar [1], as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1599/96 [2], and in particular Articles 14(2) and 37(6) thereof,

Whereas Article 37 of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 lays down that, during the marketing years 1995/96 to 2000/01 and in order to ensure adequate supplies to Community refineries, a special reduced duty is to be levied on imports of raw cane sugar originating in States with which the Community has concluded supply arrangements on preferential terms; whereas at present such agreements have been concluded by Council Decision 95/284/EC [3] only with the ACP States party to Protocol 8 on ACP sugar annexed to the Fourth ACP-EEC Lomé Convention, and with the Republic of India;

Whereas the quantities of special preferential sugar to be imported are calculated in accordance with the said Article 37 of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 on the basis of a Community forecast supply balance; whereas the balance has indicated the need to import raw sugar and to open at this stage for the 1997/98 marketing year a tariff quota at the special reduced rate of duty as provided for in the abovementioned agreements so that the Community refineries' supply need can be met for part of the year; whereas tariff quotas have in this way been opened by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1314/97 [4] for the period from 1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998; whereas the production forecasts for raw cane sugar are now available for the 1997/98 marketing year; whereas the necessary tariff quotas should consequently be opened for the second part of the marketing year; whereas, because of the presumed maximum refining needs fixed by Member States and the shortfall resulting from the forecast supply balance, provision should be made to authorize imports for each refining Member State, for the period from 1 March to 30 June 1998;

Whereas the above agreements lay down that the refiners in question must pay a minimum purchase price equal to the guaranteed price for raw sugar, minus the adjustment aid fixed for the marketing year in question; whereas this minimum price must therefore be fixed by taking account of the factors applying in the 1997/98 marketing year;

Whereas in order to avoid a rupture of supplies, provision should be made in respect of the quantities to be imported under Regulation (EC) No 1314/97 for which the licences have not been requested up to 28 February 1998, for the Member States concerned to be authorized to issue the said licences after that date during the 1997/98 marketing year;

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

A tariff quota is hereby opened for the period 1 March to 30 June 1998 under Decision 95/284/EC, in respect of imports of raw cane sugar for refining, amounting to 35 000 tonnes expressed as white sugar originating in the ACP States covered by that Decision.

This tariff quota shall bear the serial number 09.4097.

Article 2

1. A special reduced duty of ECU 5,41 per 100 kg of standard quality raw sugar shall apply to imports of the quantity referred to in Article 1.

2. Article 7 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1916/95 [5] notwithstanding, the minimum purchase price to be paid by the Community refiners shall be fixed for the period referred to in Article 1 at ECU 49,68 per 100 kg of standard quality raw sugar.

Article 3

The following Member States are hereby authorized to import under the quota referred to in Article 1 and on the terms laid down in Article 2(1) the following shortfall expressed as white sugar:

[1] OJ L 177, 1. 7. 1981, p. 4.
[2] OJ L 206, 16. 8. 1996, p. 43.
[3] OJ L 181, 1. 8. 1995, p. 22.
[4] OJ L 180, 9. 7. 1997, p. 12.
[5] OJ L 184, 3. 8. 1995, p. 18.

(a) Finland: 0 tonnes,
(b) metropolitan France: 8 000 tonnes,
(c) mainland Portugal: 12 000 tonnes,
(d) United Kingdom: 15 000 tonnes.

Article 4

The Member States referred to in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1314/97 are authorized, for the quantities in the said Article for which the applications for import licences have not been lodged before 1 March 1998, to issue such licences to allow import and refining to take place until 30 June 1998.

Article 5

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 March 1998.

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

Done at Brussels, 27 February 1998.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission