COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 843/98

of 22 April 1998

amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/97 as regards the breakdown between the Member States of areas under apple trees, pear trees, peach trees and nectarine trees for which grubbing-up premiums can be granted

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/97 of 30 October 1997 on the improvement of the Community production of apples, pears, peaches and nectarines [1], and in particular Article 1(2) thereof,

Whereas Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2200/97 breaks down between the Member States the area in respect of which grubbing-up premiums as provided for in Article 1(1) of that Regulation can be granted; whereas Article 1(2) of that Regulation stipulates the limit and the procedure applying to amendments to that breakdown;

Whereas, according to information received by the Commission up to 1 April 1998, applications for grubbing-up premiums in certain Member States cover areas smaller than those mentioned in Article 1(2) of the abovementioned Regulation; whereas the total areas still available amount to 630 hectares in the case of apple trees and pear trees and 1 264 hectares in the case of peach trees and nectarine trees; whereas those areas should be allocated to Member States where the areas covered by applications exceed those mentioned in Article 1(2) of the abovementioned Regulation and, as a priority, to those Member States where withdrawals represent the highest percentages of production; whereas, however, transfers should not involve areas of less than about 50 hectares;

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The table in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2200/97 is hereby replaced by the following.

Member States	Apples and pears (ha)	Peaches and nectarines (ha)
'Belgium	118	—
Germany	894	3
Denmark	—	—
Greece	599	2 780
Spain	1 412	2 564
France	3 181	1 414
Ireland	—	—
Italy	2 389	2 994
Luxembourg	—	—
Netherlands	593	—
Austria	139	19
Portugal	325	226
Finland	5	—
Sweden	40	—
United Kingdom	305	—'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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, 22 April 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 303, 6. 11. 1997, p. 3.