COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2716/1999

of 20 December 1999

amending Regulation (EC) No 1564/1999 fixing the minimum import price applicable to dried grapes during the 1999/2000 marketing year as well as the countervailing charge to be imposed where that price is not observed

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organisation of the markets in processed fruit and vegetable products [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2199/97 [2], and in particular Article 13(8) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1564/1999 [3] fixes for the 1999/2000 marketing year the minimum import price applicable to dried grapes falling within CN code 0806 20 and listed in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2201/96, in accordance with the criteria set out in Article 13(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2201/96;

(2) in accordance with Article 10 of the Agreement on Safeguards concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the safeguard measures taken under Article XIX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1947 and which were in existence on the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement must be terminated not later than eight years after the date on which they were first applied, or five years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, whichever comes later;

(3) the minimum import price is a safeguard measure taken under Article XIX of the GATT of 1947, so the Community has an international legal obligation to abolish it for the above products no later than the end of 1999;

(4) to meet the aforementioned obligation, therefore, the minimum import price should be fixed at zero, with effect from 1 January 2000. The countervailing charge to be imposed where this price is not observed must also be fixed at zero;

(5) the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1564/1999 is replaced by the following:

'*Article 1*

The minimum import price and the countervailing charge applicable to dried grapes falling within CN code 0806 20 shall both be fixed at zero from 1 January 2000.'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from I January 2000.

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

Done at Brussels, 20 December 1999.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 29.
[2] OJ L 303, 6.11.1997, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 13.