COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 660/1999

of 22 March 1999

amending Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 and fixing the premiums and guarantee thresholds for leaf tobacco by variety group and Member State for the 1999, 2000 and 2001 harvests

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organisation of the market in raw tobacco [1], and in particular Articles 4(1), 8 and 9(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission [2],

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament [3],

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee [4],

Whereas a supplementary amount is granted for flue-cured, light air-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos grown in Austria, Belgium, France and Germany; whereas the Council decided to raise that amount from 50 % to 65 % of the difference on the basis of the 1992 harvest; whereas this increase is to be calculated on the basis of the difference between the premium granted for those tobaccos for the 1998 harvest and the premium applicable to the 1992 harvest; whereas Article 3(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 is not consistent with this; whereas Article 3(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 should therefore be amended;

Whereas the level of premiums should be fixed having regard to the objectives of the common agricultural policy and in particular to ensure a fair standard of living for the farming community; whereas the premium amounts should reflect past and foreseeable market outlets for the various tobaccos under normal conditions of competition; whereas the level of the premiums should be fixed for three consecutive harvests and be linked to the guarantee thresholds established for the three harvests in 1999, 2000 and 2001 in order to ensure that the stability of the sector is maintained;

Whereas the second paragraph of Article 8 and Article 9(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 provide for the allocation among producer Member States of guarantee thresholds for each variety group for three harvests as from the 1999 harvest;

Whereas the level of those thresholds for the three harvests in 1999, 2000 and 2001 should be fixed having regard, in particular, to market conditions and socio-economic and agricultural conditions obtaining in the production zones concerned; whereas such fixing should be done in good time to allow producers to plan their production for the said harvests;

Whereas, as a result of the increase in supplementary amounts for flue-cured, light air-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos grown in Austria, Belgium, France and Germany, the guarantee thresholds of these Member States should be reduced in order to ensure the maintenance of budget neutrality;

Whereas, while maintaining production potential and the allocation of quotas by Member States, quotas for varieties which have assured outlets and attract high market prices should be increased progressively to the detriment of quotas for varieties which are difficult to sell and attract low market prices;

Whereas the measures in question should be introduced as soon as possible,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 3(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 shall be replaced by the following:

'2. A supplementary amount shall, however, be granted on flue-cured, light air-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos grown in Austria, Belgium, France and Germany. That amount shall be equal to 65 % of the difference between the premium applicable to the 1998 harvest and the premium applicable to the 1992 harvest for those tobaccos.'

Article 2

For the 1999, 2000 and 2001 harvests, the premium amounts for each of the groups of raw tobacco and the supplementary amounts specified in Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 shall be as shown in Annex I to this Regulation.

[1] OJ L 215, 30. 7. 1992, p. 70. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1636/98 (OJ L 210, 20. 7. 1998, p. 23).
[2] OJ C 361, 24. 11. 1998, p. 16.
[3] Opinion delivered on 11 March 1999 (not yet published in the Official Journal).
[4] Opinion delivered on 5 February 1999 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

Article 3

For the 1999, 2000 and 2001 harvests, the guarantee thresholds referred to in Articles 8 and 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 by variety group and by Member State shall be as set out in Annex II to this Regulation.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of 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 March 1999.

For the Council

The President

G. VERHEUGEN

ANNEX I

PREMIUMS FOR LEAF TOBACCO FOR THE 1999, 2000 AND 2001 HARVESTS

	I Flue-cured	II Light air-cured	III Dark air-cured	IV Fire-cured	V Sun-cured	VI Basmas	VII Katerini	VIII Kaba Koulak
EUR/kg	2,98062	2,38423	2,38423	2,62199	2,38423	4,12957	3,50395	2,50377

SUPPLEMENTARY AMOUNTS

Varieties	EUR/kg
Badischer Geudertheimer, Pereg, Korso	0,5509
Badischer Burley E and its hybrids	0,8822
Virgin D and its hybrids, Virginia and its hybrids	0,5039
Paraguay and its hybrids, Dragon vert and its hybrids, Philippin, Petit Grammont (Flobecq), Semois, Appelterre	0,4112

ANNEX II

GUARANTEE THRESHOLDS FOR 1999

	I Flue-cured	II Light air-cured	III Dark air-cured	IV Fire-cured	V Sun-cured	Other			Total
						VI Basmas	VII Katerini	VIII Kaba Koulak	
Italy	48 125	46 655	18 056	7 173	12 000		500		132 509
Greece	30 700	12 400			14 800	26 100	22 250	20 407	126 657
Spain	29 000	2 470	10 800	30					42 300
Portugal	5 500	1 200							6 700
France	9 500	8 300	8 548						26 348
Germany	3 000	4 125	4 500						11 625
Belgium		191	1 662						1 853
Austria	30	446	100						576
	125 855	75 787	43 666	7 203	26 800	26 100	22 750	20 407	348 568

GUARANTEE THRESHOLDS FOR 2000

	I Flue-cured	II Light air-cured	III Dark air-cured	IV Fire-cured	V Sun-cured	Other			Total
						VI Basmas	VII Katerini	VIII Kaba Koulak	
Italy	48 500	47 000	17 900	6 965	10 100		1 500		131 965
Greece	31 200	12 400			12 640	26 330	22 750	20 788	126 108
Spain	29 000	2 470	10 800	30					42 300
Portugal	5 500	1 200							6 700
France	9 500	8 300	8 548						26 348
Germany	3 000	4 125	4 500						11 625
Belgium		191	1 662						1 853
Austria	30	446	100						576
	126 730	76 132	43 510	6 995	22 740	26 330	24 250	20 788	347 475

GUARANTEE THRESHOLDS FOR 2001

	I Flue-cured	II Light air-cured	III Dark air-cured	IV Fire-cured	V Sun-cured	Other			Total
						VI Basmas	VII Katerini	VIII Kaba Koulak	
Italy	48 500	47 000	17 900	6 965	10 100		1 500		131 965
Greece	31 900	12 400			11 000	26 330	23 270	20 788	125 688
Spain	29 000	2 470	10 800	30					42 300
Portugal	5 500	1 200							6 700
France	9 500	8 300	8 548						26 348
Germany	3 000	4 125	4 500						11 625
Belgium		191	1 662						1 853
Austria	30	446	100						576
	127 430	76 132	43 510	6 995	21 100	26 330	24 770	20 788	347 055