COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2561/2000
of 21 November 2000
laying down special provisions for the granting of private storage aid for cows

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1254/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal [1], and in particular Article 48(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The information on the risk of transmission of bovine spongiform encephalopathy to man has caused grave concern among consumers. The Community market for cow meat has been particularly badly affected by the loss of consumer confidence leading to a sharp drop in consumption. The resultant threat of market disruption calls for urgent support measures. Under the circumstances, granting of private storage aid is appropriate.

(2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 907/2000 [2] lays down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1254/1999 as regards aid for private storage in the beef and veal sector. Provision should hereby be made to fix not only the amount of aid for a specific minimum period of storage but also the amounts to be applied if that period is extended or reduced. In the light of the urgency of this measure, the amount of aid shall be fixed in advance. The fixing of the amount of aid should in particular take into account the market value of the cow carcases and their subsequent depreciation through freezing.

(3) With a view to increasing the market effect of the private storage arrangements, the period for placing in storage should be as short as possible and advance payment of aid should be made possible after a minimum storage period.

(4) In order to make the private storage as effective as possible it is necessary to fix deboning yields which take into account the category of animals concerned.

(5) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Beef and Veal,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 27 November 2000 until 2 February 2001 inclusive, applications for private storage aid may be introduced in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 907/2000 and this Regulation.

2. Only fresh or chilled half-carcases of female bovine animals of category D referred to in Article 3(1) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1208/81 [3] and produced in full compliance with all prevailing veterinary rules shall qualify for private storage aid.

A half-carcase shall be defined in accordance with the description referred to in Article 2(1)(b) of Regulation (EEC) No 1208/81.

Where half-carcases are cut into quarters, the quartering shall be carried out in a way which allows the necessary control of the legibility requirements under the first subparagraph. With a view to acceptance for private storage, quarters shall be grouped by half-carcase when placed under the control of the intervention agency.

3. The period of storage to be included in the contract in accordance with Article 4(5)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 907/2000 shall be three months, with, the possibility for the contracting operator, at his request, of prolonging the storage period up to a maximum of six months.

4. The amount of aid for the storage period of three months shall be EUR 472 per tonne of carcase weight. If the storage period is extended in accordance with paragrpah 3, the amount of aid shall be increased by a daily supplement of EUR 0,93 per tonne.

5. The daily amount referred to in Article 17(3) of Regulation (EC) No 907/2000 is fixed at EUR 0,93 per tonne.

6. By derogation from Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 907/2000, in the case of boning:

— no aid shall be paid if the quantity stored does not exceed 60 kilograms of boneless meat per 100 kilograms of bone-in meat employed,

— the amount of aid shall be reduced proportionately if the quantity stored exceeds 60 kilograms but is lower than 68 kilograms of boneless meat per 100 kilograms of bone-in meat employed,

— no reduction or increase of the amount of aid shall apply where the quantity stored is 68 kilograms or more of boneless beef per 100 kilograms of bone-in meat employed.

[1] OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 21.
[2] OJ L 105, 3.5.2000, p. 6.
[3] OJ L 123, 7.5.1981, p. 3.

7. By derogation from Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 907/2000 the advance payment may take place after two months of storage. It shall not exceed the amount of aid corresponding to that period.

Article 2

1. The minimum quantity per contract shall be 10 tonnes.

2. By derogation from Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 907/2000 placing in storage must be completed not later than 14 days after the date of conclusion of the contract.

Article 3

The notifications pursuant to Article 29(2) of Regulation (EC) No 907/2000, from Member States to the Commission, shall be made by fax to one of the following numbers:

— (32-2) 295 36 13
— (32-2) 296 60 27.

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, 21 November 2000.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission