COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 644/2000

of 28 March 2000

fixing the ceilings on financing for measures to improve the quality of olive-oil production in the 2000/2001 production cycle and derogating from Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation No 136/66/EEC of 22 September 1966 on the establishment of a common organisation of the market in oils and fats [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2702/1999 [2], and in particular Article 5(11) thereof

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 laying down measures to improve the quality of olive oil production [3], and in particular Article 3(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Article 3(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 provides that ceilings be fixed, for each Member State and each 12-month production cycle, on financing for measures to improve the quality of olive-oil production and its environmental impact which are eligible for reimbursement by the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

(2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 2181/1999 of 14 October 1999 fixing the estimated production of olive oil and the unit amount of the production aid that may be paid in advance for the 1998/99 marketing year [4], estimates production, including production of table olives expressed as olive-oil equivalent, at 1 876 200 tonnes. This corresponds to 890 700 tonnes for Spain, 521 000 tonnes for Greece, 428 800 tonnes for Italy, 33 300 tonnes for Portugal and 2 400 tonnes for France. The amount withheld from production aid for this olive-oil marketing year serves as a basis for financing measures to improve the quality of oil during the production cycle commencing on 1 May 2000.

(3) The measures have relatively fixed minimum costs. The ceilings on total financing for some Member States may therefore prove to be too low. Appropriate limits should consequently be established for those cases.

(4) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Oils and Fats,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For the production cycle from 1 May 2000 to 30 April 2001, the ceilings on financing for the measures laid down in the first subparagraph of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 shall be:

— Spain	EUR 13 419 000,
— Greece	EUR 7 614 000,
— France	EUR 44 400,
— Italy	EUR 7 933 000,
— Portugal	EUR 602 200.

Article 2

Notwithstanding Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999, the additional national financial contribution from Member States whose ceiling on financing laid down in Article 1 is EUR 100 000 or less shall be no more than EUR 250 000.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh 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, 28 March 2000.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ 172, 30.9.1966, p. 3025/66.
[2] OJ L 327, 21.12.1999, p. 7.
[3] OJ L 62, 11.3.1999, p. 8.
[4] OJ L 267, 15.10.1999, p. 19.