COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 308/2003

of 18 February 2003

fixing certain indicative quantities and individual ceilings for the issuing of licences for importing bananas into the Community under the tariff quotas for the second quarter of 2003

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 404/93 of 13 February 1993 on the common organisation of the market in bananas [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2587/2001 [2], and in particular Article 20 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Article 14(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 896/2001 of 7 May 2001 laying down detailed rules for applying Council Regulation (EEC) No 404/93 as regards the arrangements for importing bananas into the Community [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 349/2002 [4], provides for the possibility of fixing an indicative quantity, expressed as the same percentage of quantities available under each of the tariff quotas, for the purposes of issuing import licences for the first three quarters of the year.

(2) The data relating, on the one hand, to the quantities of bananas marketed in the Community in 2002, and in particular actual imports, especially during the second quarter, and, on the other hand, to the outlook for supply and consumption on the Community market in the same quarter of 2003 call for the fixing of indicative quantities for quotas A, B and C that ensure satisfactory supply to the Community as a whole and continuity of trade flows between the production and marketing sectors.

(3) On the basis of the same data, the ceiling on the quantities for which individual operators can submit licence applications in respect of the second quarter of 2003 should be fixed for the purposes of Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 896/2001.

(4) Since this Regulation must apply before the beginning of the period for the submission of licence applications in respect of the second quarter of 2003, it should enter into force immediately.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The indicative quantity provided for in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 896/2001 for banana imports under the tariff quotas provided for in Article 18 of Regulation (EEC) No 404/93 shall be equal to 29 % of the quantities available for traditional and non-traditional operators under tariff quotas A/B and C for the second quarter of 2003.

Article 2

For the second quarter of 2003, the quantity referred to in Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 896/2001 that may be authorised for banana imports under the tariff quotas provided for in Article 18 of Regulation (EEC) No 404/93 shall be equal to:

(a) 29 % of the reference quantity established pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 of Regulation (EC) No 896/2001 for traditional operators under tariff quotas A/B and C;

(b) 29 % of the reference quantity established and notified pursuant to Article 9(3) of Regulation (EC) No 896/2001 for non-traditional operators under tariff quotas A/B and C.

Article 3

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

[1] OJ L 47, 25.2.1993, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 345, 29.12.2001, p. 13.
[3] OJ L 126, 8.5.2001, p. 6.
[4] OJ L 55, 26.2.2002, p. 17.

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

Done at Brussels, 18 February 2003.

For the Commission
J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ
Agriculture Director-General