COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 697/2006

of 5 May 2006

amending Regulation (EC) No 343/2006 opening the buying-in of butter in certain Member States for the period 1 March to 31 August 2006

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in milk and milk products [1],

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2771/1999 of 16 December 1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 as regards intervention on the market in butter and cream [2], and in particular Article 2 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 343/2006 [3] establishes the list of Member States in which buying-in for butter is open, as provided for in Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999.

(2) On the basis of most recent communications by Belgium and Luxembourg, pursuant to Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 2771/1999, the Commission has observed that butter market prices have been below 92 % of the intervention price for two consecutive weeks. Intervention buying-in should therefore be opened in those Member States. Belgium and Luxembourg should therefore be added to the list established in Regulation (EC) No 343/2006.

(3) Regulation (EC) No 343/2006 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 343/2006 is replaced by the following text:

'*Article 1*

Buying-in of butter as provided for in Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 is hereby open in the following Member States:

— Belgium
— Czech Republic
— Germany
— Estonia
— Spain
— France
— Italy
— Ireland
— Latvia
— Luxembourg
— Netherlands
— Poland
— Portugal
— Finland
— Sweden
— United Kingdom.'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 6 May 2006.

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

Done at Brussels, 5 May 2006.

For the Commission
J. L. DEMARTY
Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

[1] OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 48. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1913/2005 (OJ L 307, 25.11.2005, p. 2).
[2] OJ L 333, 24.12.1999, p. 11. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2107/2005 (OJ L 337, 22.12.2005, p. 20).
[3] OJ L 55, 25.2.2006, p. 17. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 663/2006 (OJ L 116, 29.4.2006, p. 39).