REGULATIONS

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2017/1794

of 5 October 2017

fixing the interest rates to be used for calculating the costs of financing intervention measures comprising buying-in, storage and disposal for the 2018 EAGF accounting year

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 ([1]), and in particular Article 20(1) and (4) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Agricultural Funds,

Whereas:

(1) Article 3(1)(a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 906/2014 ([2]) provides that expenditure relating to the financing costs incurred by Member States in mobilising funds to buy in products is to be determined in accordance with the methods set out in Annex I to that Regulation.

(2) Point I.1 of Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 906/2014 provides that the financing costs in question are to be calculated on the basis of a uniform interest rate for the Union fixed by the Commission at the beginning of every accounting year. This interest rate corresponds to the average of the 3-month and 12-month forward Euribor rates, recorded in the 6-month reference period to be determined by the Commission, preceding the notification from the Member States provided for in the first paragraph of point I.2 of that Annex, with a weighting of one third and two thirds respectively.

(3) In order to determine the interest rates applicable for a given accounting year, the first paragraph of point I.2 of Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 906/2014 provides that Member States have to notify the Commission, at its request, of the average interest rate they actually bore during the reference period referred to in point I.1 of that Annex, no later than the deadline referred to in that request.

(4) Furthermore, in accordance with the second paragraph of point I.2 of Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 906/2014, in the absence of any notification from a Member State, in the form and by the deadline referred to in the first paragraph of that point, the interest rate borne by that Member State has to be considered to be 0 %. Where a Member State declares that it did not bear any interest costs because it did not have agricultural products in public storage during the reference period, the Commission has to fix that interest rate in accordance with the third paragraph of that point.

(5) In accordance with point I.3 of Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 906/2014, the interest rate determined on the basis of point I.2 of that Annex is to be compared with the uniform interest rate fixed on the basis of point I.1 of that Annex. The interest rate applicable to each Member State has to be the lower of these two interest rates. However, for the purpose of reimbursing Member States expenditure, negative interest rates cannot be taken into account.

(6) The interest rates applicable for the 2018 EAGF accounting year should be fixed taking those various factors into account.

(7) In order to avoid a legal vacuum with regard to the interest rate applicable for calculating the costs of financing intervention measures, it is appropriate that the new rate applies retroactively from 1 October 2017,

([1]) OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549.
([2]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 906/2014 of 11 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to public intervention expenditure (OJ L 255, 28.8.2014, p. 1).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For expenditure relating to the financing costs incurred by Member States in mobilising funds to buy in products chargeable to the 2018 accounting year of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF), the interest rates provided for in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 906/2014 in accordance with Article 3(1)(a) of that Regulation shall be fixed at 0 %.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 October 2017.

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

Done at Brussels, 5 October 2017.

For the Commission
The President
Jean-Claude JUNCKER