

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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## COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

concerning participation by the Community in FAO's Global  
Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture,  
implementing Resolution XVI of the World Food Conference.

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## INTRODUCTION

The World Food Conference (Resolution XVI) asked FAO to set up a global information and early warning system on food and agriculture.

The principal objectives of this system are :

- constant monitoring of world food supply and demand;
- to identify countries where serious food shortages are imminent and evaluate any requirements for emergency food aid;
- to contribute to the proper functioning of the International Undertaking on World Food Security.

The products to be covered by the system initially are :

- cereals including rice;
- oleaginous proteins and fish meal;
- milk and milk products;
- fertilizers and pesticides.

### I. FUNCTIONING OF THE SYSTEM

The system involves the publication of a number of bulletins in the following four sectors :

#### 1. World food situation and prospects

- Quarterly bulletin on food prospects;
- Monthly supplement to the quarterly bulletin on food prospects;
- Special bulletins on particular critical food situations.

#### 2. Early warning of food shortage

- Monthly summary of country reports on the state of basic food crops.

#### 3. Food stocks and food aid

World food stocks : Current situation reports and appraisals.

This is a new series of reports launched at the instigation of the FAO Conference in conjunction with the implementation of the Undertaking on World Food Security.

These reports will constitute an appraisal of national stockbuilding policies and objectives and will examine the level of world cereals stocks in order to assess whether they are adequate in terms of world food security.

- Bulletin on food aid

This is a series of quarterly reports on bilateral and multilateral operations and food aid availabilities which already exists.

4. Information concerning fertilizers and pesticides

Availabilities, shortfalls, prices, contracts, fertilizer production capacity in the event of emergency operations.

II. THE CONTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENTS

The Governments participating in the system are requested to furnish on a voluntary basis as much information as possible on the products in question. This information relates to the current situation and the prospects regarding production, consumption, imports, exports, prices and stocks.

Any information which could have a bearing on the supply and demand situation is also requested.

III. EEC SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

In a letter of 25 April 1975 the Director-General of FAO invited all the Member Nations of FAO and of the United Nations and the international organisations concerned, including the European Economic Community, to participate in the System and to designate a liaison official.

Given the System's objectives, the Community has already expressed interest in it and the intention to participate. Furthermore, the EEC has already declared its readiness to accept, on certain conditions, the International Undertaking on World Food Security (1) to which the Information and Early Warning System is the logical complement.

(1) See Council document S/573/75.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed to the Council that the European Economic Community participate in the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, support its objectives and supply the necessary information. If the Council approves the above proposal the Commission will take the necessary measures to establish an appropriate liaison with F.A.O.