



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 03.03.1997
COM(97) 18 final

97/ 0026 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

apportioning the quantities of grain provided for under the

Food Aid Convention 1995

(presented by the Commission)

Explanatory memorandum

1. The new Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 of 27 June 1996 on food-aid policy and food-aid management and special operations in support of food security entered into force on 8 July this year.

Article 21(1) of the Regulation, which concerns the allocation of grain under the Food Aid Convention, provides that "the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, shall determine the Community share of the overall amount of cereals aid laid down in the Food Aid Convention as the total contribution of both the Community and its Member States".

Article 21(2) states that " the Commission shall coordinate the operations of the Community and the Member States as regards the supply of cereals under the Food Aid Convention and shall ensure that the total contribution by the Community and its Member States is at least as high as the quantities provided for in the Convention".

2. Since the 1986 Food Aid Convention expired on 30 June 1995, its members began negotiations for a new Convention.

The negotiations were successful, and the Food Aid Convention was adopted in final form at the 69th meeting of the Food Aid Committee.

3. Under the terms of the new Convention, which came into provisional application in the Community from 1 July 1995 for three years (until 30 June 1998), covered by a declaration providing for provisional application, the Community and its Member States have undertaken to provide a minimum of 1 755 000 tonnes of cereals per year for use as food aid.

This undertaking represents an increase of 85 000 tonnes over the commitment of the Community and the Member States under the previous Convention, incorporating unchanged the contributions of Austria (20 000 tonnes), Finland (25 000 tonnes) and Sweden (40 000 tonnes) under that Convention.

4. In the light of these considerations and the opinions expressed by some of the Member States, including Sweden, Finland, Austria, Spain and Italy, the Commission believes that the Member States' contribution should be increased by 28 900 tonnes and that of the Community itself should be increased by 56 100 tonnes. The Commission takes the view that the Community budget can cover the additional quantities without an increase in the overall allocation for compulsory expenditure.

Contributions would be apportioned as follows:

	old contribution (tonnes)	new contribution (tonnes)
Austria	-	8 400
Belgium	41 500	41 500
Denmark	15 600	15 600
Finland	-	-
France	200 000	200 000
Germany	193 500	193 500
Greece	10 000	10 000
Ireland	4 000	4 000
Italy	95 400	87 000
Luxembourg	1 400	1 400
Netherlands	50 200	50 200
Portugal	-	-
Spain	20 000	8 900
Sweden	-	40 000
United Kingdom	110 700	110 700
 Total Member States	 742 300	 771 200
EC	927 700	983 800
 Overall total	 1 670 000	 1 755 000

5. These figures would give the Member States' own operations a share of 43.94% and Community operations a share of 56.06%.

6. As before, the commitment made in connection with the Convention should be considered as a minimum. As in recent years, the Commission expects, when the budget process begins, to propose allocations enabling it to provide developing countries with amounts of food aid which are determined by their actual needs and which go beyond the Community's own commitment under the Food Aid Convention.

The Member States themselves will of course likewise monitor developing countries' needs and provide them with amounts of food aid which are determined by actual needs and which go beyond their own commitments under the Convention.

7. The Commission is proposing to the Council that it adopt the attached Regulation allocating the quantities provided for in the Food Aid Convention. This includes a proposed breakdown of national aid in its annex on which the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council are asked to decide.

**Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No ...**

**apportioning the quantities of grain provided for under the
Food Aid Convention 1995**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 of 27 June 1996 on food-aid policy and food-aid management and special operations in support of food security,¹ and in particular Article 21 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,²

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,³

Whereas the Food Aid Convention 1995 has applied provisionally in the Community since 1 July 1995; whereas Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 did not enter into force until 8 July;

Whereas Article 21 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 requires the Commission to coordinate Community and Member States' operations for the purposes of the Regulation; whereas it has presented a proposed breakdown of national aid to this end and this is published in the annex; whereas this should be decided on by the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council and adopted together with the Regulation,

¹OJ No L 166, 5.7.1996, p.8.

²OJ No ...

³Opinion delivered on ... (OJ No ...)

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The 1 755 000 tonnes of grain constituting the minimum annual contribution to be made by the Community and its Member States pursuant to the Food Aid Convention 1995 shall be apportioned as follows for the lifetime of the current version of that Convention:

- (a) Community operations: 983 800 tonnes;
- (b) national operations: 771 200 tonnes.

Article 2

The breakdown of quantities for national operations provided for in Article 21(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 and published in the annex to this Regulation must be decided on by the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council and adopted at the same time as this Regulation.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of 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 ..., ...

For the Council

ANNEX

**PROPOSED BREAKDOWN OF AMOUNTS ALLOCATED UNDER NATIONAL
FOOD AID OPERATIONS UNDER THE FOOD AID CONVENTION**

	(tonnes)
<i>Austria</i>	8 400
<i>Belgium</i>	41 500
<i>Denmark</i>	15 600
<i>Finland</i>	-
<i>France</i>	200 000
<i>Germany</i>	193 500
<i>Greece</i>	10 000
<i>Ireland</i>	4 000
<i>Italy</i>	87 000
<i>Luxembourg</i>	1 400
<i>Netherlands</i>	50 200
<i>Portugal</i>	-
<i>Spain</i>	8 900
<i>Sweden</i>	40 000
<i>United Kingdom</i>	110 700

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