



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

on the cost of the aid measures for the transport of certain fruit and vegetables
in 1996 provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No 3438/92

Article 2(4) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3438/92¹, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1600/96², requires the Commission to present a report to the Council on the cost of the aid measures for the transport of certain fruit and vegetables.

This report concerns the cost of the measures in 1996.

1. Background

The conflict in Yugoslavia, which erupted in 1991, hampered the transport of certain Greek agricultural products destined for other Community Member States, in particular fruit and vegetables, which are highly perishable.

As a result of this exceptional situation, unprecedented since the introduction of the common agricultural policy, the Council took a decision, in respect of fruit and vegetables covered by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72³ (which was subsequently repealed and replaced by Regulation (EC) No 2200/96⁴), on account of their perishability, to compensate for the costs arising as a result of the need to avoid the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

2. Regulatory framework

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3438/92 provides for the grant of a special temporary allowance for the years 1992-96 on consignments made by wagon, truck or vessel to Member States other than Italy, Spain and Portugal. The allowance for 1996, which is the last year for which it is to be granted, must be adjusted on a diminishing scale.

The Commission subsequently adopted a number of implementing regulations, including Regulation (EC) No 2133/96⁵, amended by Regulation (EC) No 95/98⁶, concerning the consignments in 1996.

This Regulation set the aid originally at ECU 3.21 and ECU 2.76 per 100 kilograms net weight for consignments from 1 January to 17 October 1996 and from 18 October to 31

¹ OJ L 350, 1.12.1992, p. 1.

² OJ L 206, 16. 8.1996, p. 45.

³ OJ L 118, 20. 5.1972, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 285, 7.11.1996, p. 13.

⁶ OJ L 9, 15. 1.1998, p. 28.

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December 1996 respectively on condition that the quantities dispatched during those periods do not exceed 175 000 tonnes and 41 000 tonnes respectively.

The competent Greek authorities were instructed to examine aid applications and their admissibility and to proceed with payments. They were instructed also to carry out the necessary checks on the operations. Financing is provided by the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

The Greek authorities are required to notify the Commission of the quantities qualifying for transport aid.

3. Cost of the aid

The figures below have been prepared on the basis of information sent by Greece concerning the consignments in 1996 which qualified for transport aid. The data supplied to the Commission are broken down by product, means of transport and Member State of destination.

In 1996 aid was granted in respect of 260 958 437 kg of fruit and vegetables, i.e. 5% less than in 1995. The quantities dispatched during the two reference periods referred to in point 2 above totalled 206 016 864 kg and 54 941 573 kg (i.e. 79% and 21%) respectively. The aid amounts were consequently reduced in proportion to the overruns, as required under Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2133/96, to ECU 2.727 and ECU 2.060 per 100 kg respectively, giving a total cost for the measure of ECU 6 749 876.

4. Summary

Table 1 gives a breakdown by product of the quantities dispatched. Grapes are the main product that benefited from the measures, accounting for 31% of the consignments for which the allowance was granted. Next come oranges (14%), followed by water melons (11%).

Germany was by far the principal consignee Member State, receiving 64% of the quantities dispatched, followed by the Netherlands (16%) and the United Kingdom (11%) (see Table 2).

Table 1
 Consignments of Greek fruit and vegetables which qualified for transport aid in 1996

Product	Quantity (kg)	Percentage (%)
Grapes	81,607,965	31.3
Oranges	35,645,944	13.7
Water melons	29,705,048	11.4
Asparagus	24,016,518	9.2
Cucumbers	19,854,739	7.6
Mandarins	16,871,482	6.5
Peaches	15,016,785	5.8
Kiwis	10,713,782	4.1
Cherries	6,067,158	2.3
Lemons	5,558,389	2.1
Apricots	4,711,271	1.8
Nectarines	4,604,271	1.8
Peppers	1,711,130	0.7
Tomato peppers	1,697,056	0.7
Carrots	1,008,972	0.4
Sweet peppers	957,327	0.4
Valencia oranges	524,450	0.2
Lettuce	243,220	0.1
Apples	240,072	0.1
Tomatoes	65,277	0.0
Aubergines	47,445	0.0
Quinces	34,430	0.0
Cabbages	17,800	0.0
Plums	11,640	0.0
Raspberries	10,903	0.0
Beans	8,900	0.0
Mirabelle plums	3,393	0.0
Grapefruit	2,710	0.0
Pears	360	0.0
Total	260,958,437	100.0

Table 2

Consignments of Greek fruit and vegetables which qualified for transport aid in 1996
by Member State of destination

Member State of destination	Quantity (kg)	Percentage (%)
D	165,770,941	63.5
NL	40,382,906	15.5
UK	29,282,103	11.2
A	16,175,286	6.2
F	2,479,037	0.9
DK	1,671,658	0.6
S	3,796,306	1.5
B	1,400,200	0.5

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