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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 12.11.1999
COM(1999) 581 final

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION

**fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I (A), (D) and (E) of
Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 for the 2000 fishing year**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this regulation is to fix the guide prices for 2000 for the products in Annex I(A), (D) and (E) to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 on the common organisation of the market in fishery products. Article 9 of the Regulation provides that a guide price is to be fixed annually for each of these products on the basis of the average of prices recorded on representative wholesale markets or in representative ports during the three fishing years immediately preceding the year for which the price is fixed. Account is also to be taken of the production and demand prospects and other criteria relating to the stabilisation of market prices, support for producers' incomes and consumers' interests.

Over the period 1997 to 1999 compared to 1996-98, the average prices for whitefish have been improving significantly, with increases ranging from +2% to +18%, except sole (0%) and dab (-4%). Whitefish prices have been higher in the first six months of 1999 than they were in the first half of 1998, except for coalfish, redfish and sole. In view of this favourable market situation, the Commission is proposing increases in the guide price of between 1% and 2% for most whitefish species with the exception of dab, common flounder and sole for which the Commission recommends no change.

With regard to pelagic species, the change in average prices over 1997-99 compared to 1996-98 ranged from -7% to +14%: whilst the prices for sardines and Spanish mackerel have been increasing, the situation for herring, mackerel, anchovy and albacore tuna has deteriorated, particularly over the shorter term. The Commission is therefore proposing to reduce the guide price significantly for these species, except for albacore tuna and Spanish mackerel (no change is recommended) and for sardines (an increase of 2% is advised).

As regards the other species in Annex I, the Commission is proposing to increase the guide price for shrimps, whole lobster and Norway prawns and to keep the existing guide price for edible crabs, lobster tails, cuttlefish and cooked Norway prawns.

In summary, the Commission proposes:

- to lower the guide price for herring by 4%, for mackerel by 3%, and for anchovy by 2%;
- to maintain in 2000 the guide prices for 1999 for Spanish mackerel, edible crab, lobster tails, dab, common flounder, albacore tuna (whole and gutted), cuttlefish, sole and cooked Norway prawns; and
- to raise the guide price for spotted dogfish, redfish, haddock, whiting, plaice, megrim, whole lobster and fresh Norway prawns by 1%, for cod and coalfish by 1.5% and for sardines, dogfish, ling, hake, Ray's bream, monkfish (whole and headed) and shrimps by 2%.

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fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I (A), (D) and (E) of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 for the 2000 fishing year

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 of 17 December 1992 on the common organization of the market in fishery and aquaculture products ¹, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3318/94 ², and in particular Article 9 (3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 provides that a guide price shall be fixed for each fishing year for each of the products or groups of products listed in Annex I (A), (D) and (E) to that Regulation ;
- (2) According to the data available at present concerning prices for the products in question and the criteria laid down in Article 9 (2), of that Regulation, these prices should be increased, maintained or decrease⁰ according to the species for the 2000 fishing year,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The guide prices for the fishing year from 1 January to 31 December 2000 for the products listed in Annex I (A), (D) and (E) to Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 and the commercial categories to which they relate are fixed in the Annex hereto.

¹ OJ No L 388, 31.12.1992, p. 1.

² OJ No L 350, 31.12.1994, p. 15.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 2000.

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*

ANNEX I

Species	Commercial specifications ⁽¹⁾			Guide price (EURO/tonne)
	Freshness category	Size	Presentation	
1. Herrings of the species Clupea harengus	Extra, A	1	Whole fish	259
2. Sardines of the species Sardina pilchardus	Extra	3	Whole fish	542
3. Picked dogfish (Squalus acanthias)	Extra, A	2	Whole fish Gutted fish with head) 1068)
4. Catshanks (Scyliorhinus spp.)	Extra, A	1	Whole fish Gutted fish with head) 814)
5. Redfish (Sebastes spp.)	A	2	Whole fish	1154
6. Cod of the species Gadus morhua	A or A	2 3	Gutted fish with head Gutted fish with head)) 1529)
7. Coalfish (Pollachius virens)	A or A	2 3	Gutted fish with head Gutted fish with head)) 782)
8. Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus)	A or A	2 3	Gutted fish with head Gutted fish with head)) 1036)
9. Whiting (Merlangius merlangus)	A or A	2 3	Gutted fish with head Gutted fish with head)) 902)
10. Ling (Molva spp.)	Extra, A	1, 2	Gutted fish with head	1173
11. Mackerel of the species Scomber scombrus	Extra or A	1 2	Whole fish Whole fish)) 285)
12. Mackerel of the species Scomber japonicus	Extra or A	1 2	Whole fish Whole fish)) 301
13. Anchovies (Engraulis spp.)	Extra	2	Whole fish	1167
14. Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa)	A or A	2 3	Gutted fish with head Gutted fish with head	from 1.1.2000 until 30.4.2000 : 1052 from 1.5.2000 until 31.12.2000: 1448
15. Hake of the species Merluccius merluccius	A	1	Gutted fish with head	3732
16. Megrim (Lepidorhombus spp.)	Extra, A	1, 2	Whole fish, gutted fish with head	2358
17. Ray's bream (Brama spp.)	Extra, A	1	Whole fish	1836
18. Monkfish (Lophius spp.)	Extra, A	2, 3	Whole, or gutted with head Without head	2771
	Extra, A	2, 3		5725
19. Shrimps of the species Crangon crangon	A	1	Simply boiled in water	2405
20. Edible crab (Cancer pagurus)	-	1	Whole	1749
21. Norway lobster (Nephrops norvegicus)	E, A	1, 2	Whole	5284
	E, A	2	Tails	4345
22. Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	Extra, A	1	Gutted fish with head	932
23. Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	Extra, A	1	Gutted fish with head	558
24. Albacore or longfinned tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Extra, A	1	Whole fish	2145
		1	Gutted fish with head	2452
25. Cuttlefish (<i>Sepia officinalis</i> and <i>Rossia macrosoma</i>)	Extra, A	1, 2	Whole	1605
26. Sole (<i>Solea spp.</i>)	Extra, A	2, 3	Gutted fish with head	6453
27. Deep-water prawns (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>)	A	1	Simply boiled in water	6387
	A	1	Fresh or chilled	1690

(1) The freshness categories, sizes and presentation are defined pursuant to Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92

FINANCIAL STATEMENT		FISH-A-4	
		DATE: 26.10.99	
1.	BUDGET HEADING: B1-261	APPROPRIATIONS:	
2.	TITLE: Three proposals for Council Regulations fixing the guide prices for fishery products (Annex I, A,D and E, Annex II to Regulation (EEC) NO. 3759/92) and the Community producer price for tuna (Annex III)		
3.	LEGAL BASIS: Articles 9 and 17 of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92		
4.	AIMS: Annual fixing of prices in the fisheries sector (2000 fishing year)		
5.	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	12 MONTH PERIOD (EUR million)	FINANCIAL YEAR 2000 (EUR million)
			FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR (EUR million)
5.0	EXPENDITURE		14
	- CHARGED TO THE EC BUDGET (REFUNDS/INTERVENTIONS)		
	- NATIONAL AUTHORITIES		
	- OTHER		
5.1	REVENUE		
	- OWN RESOURCES OF THE EC (LEVIES/CUSTOMS DUTIES)		
	- NATIONAL		
5.0.1	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	Measures restricted to the 2000 fishing year (16.10.99-	
5.1.1	ESTIMATED REVENUE	15.10.2000)	
5.2	METHOD OF CALCULATION:		
	- Community withdrawals :	Euro 6,0 million	
	- Compensatory allowance for tuna	Euro 3,5 million	
	- Autonomous withdrawals and carry-overs	Euro 2,5 million	
	- Community carry-overs	Euro 1,5 million	
	- Private storage aid :	Euro 0,5 million	
6.0	CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED FROM APPROPRIATIONS ENTERED IN THE RELEVANT CHAPTER OF THE CURRENT BUDGET?		
6.1	CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED BY TRANSFER BETWEEN CHAPTERS OF THE CURRENT BUDGET?		
6.2	WILL A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BE NECESSARY?		NO
6.3	WILL APPROPRIATIONS NEED TO BE ENTERED IN FUTURE BUDGETS?		YES
OBSERVATIONS: Since this is a price fixing measure the impact on expenditure is indirect. The expenditure in question will largely depend on developments in the market situation and on quantities landed.			