

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

CONCERNING EMERGENCY FOOD AID  
FOR THE VICTIMS OF DROUGHT  
IN SRI LANKA

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## 1. Food requirements of Sri Lanka and requests received

Following the complete failure of the 1980/81 and the 1981/82 paddy harvests in the dry (northern) zone owing to drought, the Government of Sri Lanka has informed the Commission that 400 000 families (2.0 m persons) in the worst affected areas of the 18 districts involved are now living under famine conditions and has submitted a request for emergency food aid.

The present request for 35 000 t of wheat flour and 840 t of sugar is based on the ratios of 5 000 t of wheat flour per month and 4 t of sugar per day to feed 2.0 m persons for the seven month normal Maha crop season (September 1982 to March 1983), in anticipation that there will be no failure of the monsoon this year.

F A O, which supplied 10 080 t of wheat flour in April 1982, has confirmed the famine situation. It is understood that the Government of Sri Lanka has also approached the United States of America for emergency aid.

## 2. Possible Community measures

Under this year's food aid programmes Sri Lanka will obtain 37 000 t of wheat for sale and investment of counterpart funds in development projects, and 100 t of butteroil for free distribution (1).

However, with regard to the above request, the following additional food aid could be decided :

10 000 t of cereals.

The cereals would be made available from the reserve of the 1981/1982 programme which is currently 43 463 t.

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(1) The estimated value of this aid is approximately ECU 5.874 m at world prices and ECU 8.403 m at internal prices.

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The value of this aid is estimated at the following world prices :

ECU 2.12 m for cereals.

The financing could come from the funds available under the Communities' general budget (1).

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To conclude, it is proposed that the Council decide on the following allocation to Sri Lanka :

emergency food aid of 10 000 t of cereals  
with transport costs to be paid as far as the CIF stage.

Moreover, taking into account the requirements of sugar indicated by the Government of Sri Lanka, the Commission intends to allocate the following amount, to be delivered CIF, to Sri Lanka under funds in the 1982 budget :

sugar : 350 t, at an estimated value of ECU 0.159 m (2).

It is informing the Council and the European Parliament of this intention.

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(1) Item 9201.

(2) Funds entered under item 9220 : ECU 2.8 m.