

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(75) 334 final

Brussels, 4 July 1975

RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion of the agreement amending the agreement between the
EEC and the Arab Republic of Syria on the supply of
flour of soft wheat as food aid

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(75) 334 final

1. During the negotiations of August and September 1974 for the Agreement¹ between the EEC and the Arab Republic of Syria on supply of flour of soft wheat as food aid for 1973/74, the Commission had proposed to the Syrian authorities a UMR figure², to appear in Article V of the Agreement, of 204 000 metric tons of soft wheat or its equivalent in flour of soft wheat. The calculation of this figure had been based, in accordance with the principles adopted in this connection within the framework of the FAO on average commercial imports into Syria during the preceding 5 years.

- i. Syria's import requirements were lower in 1973/74 than in the preceding years, the country's requirements tending to fluctuate greatly from year to year because of harvest variations;
- ii. their country was facing severe economic difficulties as a result of the efforts being made for reconstruction;
- iii. help for refugees had been added to the usual burdens on the State.

The Council was subsequently informed (by telex from the delegation in Washington, on 21 November 1974) that for their part the United States had signed a wheat supply agreement with Syria under PL 480, on the basis of a UMR of 204.000 metric tons, thus breaking the rule that the UMR is indivisible (for a given product and period there can be only one UMR). On being consulted the Syrian Embassy confirmed this information and explained that the Syrian Government had had to make a special cereals distribution to peasants and villages in Syria and accordingly found itself obliged to increase its purchases of wheat on the international markets. Furthermore, it declared its readiness to renegotiate the Agreement with the Community.

¹ The Agreement was signed on 11 November 1974, see OJ No. L 355 of 14 December 1974.

² Usual Marketing Requirement, expressing the recipient country's need to import from all sources during the year in question a certain quantity of wheat or its equivalent in flour.

3. While regretting that the Syrian Government had negotiated on the basis of two UMRs (with the Community then with the United States) and having communicated its regret to the Syrian authorities, the Commission considers that the Agreement should be suitably amended (the UMR figure of 204 000 metric tons being restored) in view of the fact that this amendment is after all in the interests of the exporting countries and therefore of the Community.

4. It is therefore proposed that the Council conclude the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters¹ amending the supply Agreement signed on 11 November by the Syrian Government and the Community..

¹ Draft Decision annexed hereto.

COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending the Agreement of 11 November 1974 between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Syria on the supply of flour of soft wheat as food aid.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 113, 114 and 228 thereof;

Having regard to the Recommendation from the Commission;

Whereas the European Economic Community has concluded the 1971 Food Aid Convention¹;

Whereas an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Syria on the supply of flour of soft wheat as food aid, was signed on 11 November 1974;

Whereas the Arab Republic of Syria has requested that the UMR figure be amended and the Community considers that this request is justified;

Whereas in order to grant this request Article V of the abovementioned Agreement must be amended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

The Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Syria, the text of which is annexed to this Decision, is hereby concluded on behalf of the Community.

¹OJ No. L 219 of 9 August 1974, p. 24

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorized to designate the persons empowered to sign the Agreement and to confer on them the powers required to bind the Community.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

AGREEMENT

In the form of an exchange of letters amending the Agreement of 11 November 1974 between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Syria on the supply of flour of soft wheat as food aid.

A Letter from the European Economic Community

Sir,

With reference to the Agreement of 11 November 1974 between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Syria on the supply of flour of soft wheat as food aid, Article V of which provided for a UMR of 102 000 metric tons of soft wheat or its equivalent in flour of soft wheat and to your request that this UMR be amended to 204 000 metric tons, I have the honour to propose to you the following amendment to the above-mentioned Agreement :

In Article V "204 000" shall be substituted for "102.000".

I shall be obliged if you will inform me whether your Government can agree to the above.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

For the Council of the
European Communities

B. Letter from the Arab Republic of Syria

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date, reading as follows :

"With reference to the Agreement of 11 November 1974 between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Syria on the supply of flour of soft wheat as food aid, Article V of which provides for a UMR of 102 000 tonnes of soft wheat or its equivalent in flour of soft wheat, and to your request that this UMR be amended to 204 000 metric tons, -I have the honour to propose to you the following amendment to the above-mentione Agreement :

In Article V "204 000" shall be substituted for "102 000".

I shall be obliged if you will inform me whether your Government can agree to the above".

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria agrees to the amendment proposed in your letter.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

For the Government of the
Abar Republic of Syria