

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 404 final

Brussels, 14 July 1981

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

on the granting of food aid in the form of cereals to Niger

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(81) 404 final

Introduction

As a result of unusual weather conditions (uneven pattern of rainfall, drought), Niger has made a request to the Commission for food aid.

In this Communication the Commission proposes to the Council that food aid consisting of 5 000 T. of cereals be granted to Niger.

- This aid is to be taken from the overall reserve of the 1981 food aid programme and delivered cif.

The cost of this operation is estimated at 1 330 150 ECU.

A. Niger

After six years of sustained effort, the Niger Government had announced in September 1980 that the country had, through its own endeavour, established its own independent food supplies, and would not need to call upon foreign aid - the first Sahelian country to achieve this.

This declaration was made before the last rainy season, when not all the production regions received sufficient rain. In Niger, as in the neighbouring Sahelian countries, pockets of drought have been recorded in a number of departments; cereal production in the more fortunate areas has not been sufficient to supply the shortfall regions.

The effects of this situation are serious. Niger, unlike its neighbours, had not requested foreign aid and is therefore in difficulties. Supplies of cereals such as common wheat and red sorghum, which are usually difficult, if not impossible, to sell (not part of normal diet) are now almost exhausted. The requirements up to 31 August 1981 are for 30% of the population of Niger:

Urban population	700 000
Nomads, stock-farmers, farmers in shortfall areas	<u>1 000 000</u>
Total	1 700 000

These requirements are evaluated at 127 500 T. on the basis of 500 g per person during the period 1 April to 31 August, the five months for which stop-gap measures are necessary.

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The OPVN (Office Produits Vivriers du Niger - Niger Foodstuffs Board) has 63 000 T. at its disposal (situation end March 1981), including old stocks, commercial purchases in progress, etc. The reserve stock financed by German aid which had theoretically reached 45 000 T. is now at only 20 000 T. - the OPVN was not able to replace the quantities released.

B. Conclusion

Since Niger did not submit a request for food aid before the adoption of the 1981 food aid programme no cereal supplies have been earmarked for that country. The Commission considers that food aid should be granted and proposes that 5 000 T. of cereals should be delivered cif; this operation has no financial implications, the appropriations having been fixed on an overall basis when the 1981 programme was drawn up.

PROPOSAL
FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

ON THE GRANTING OF FOOD AID

IN THE FORM OF CEREALS

TO NIGER

The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Article 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas when the Council, by its Decision of 27 May 1981,¹ adopted the
cereals food aid programme for 1981, it reserved certain quantities for
emergency operations and other contingencies;

Whereas quantities are still available under this reserve;

Whereas the Community has received a request for a food aid operation;

Whereas the Community should grant this request,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Food aid in the form of cereals shall be granted from the reserve for
the 1981 programme and allocated as follows:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Quantity (T.)</u>	<u>Delivery terms</u>
Niger	5 000	cif

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

(1) See OJ No L 141