

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 407 final

Brussels, 14 July 1981

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION
on the granting of emergency food aid (cereals)
to the Kingdom of Morocco

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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I. EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Morocco experienced an exceptional drought this year, as there was a very serious shortage of rain in most regions (between 44% and 52% of the average for the last four years). Combined with the poor weather in December and January, this has had very serious effects on the entire agricultural sector, and particularly on crops.

In 1980/81 cereal production should reach a maximum of 2 million t (as against 4.5 million t in 1979/80), causing a total shortfall of 4 million t, in relation to total consumption requirements of 6 million t.

If commercial imports are doubled (expected to be 3.5 million t in 1981, as against 1.7 million t in 1980), this shortfall may be reduced to 500 000 t.¹

Other agricultural sectors (livestock, citrus fruit, sugar production, oil, etc.) have also been hit, and to deal with this situation the Moroccan authorities have set up an emergency aid plan to help the farming population affected by the drought.

Our food aid would be used as part of this programme of aid for the victims of the drought.²

1. This very large increase in commercial imports will place a severe strain on the country's balance of current payments, which in 1979 showed a deficit of US 1 500 million.
2. It should be noted that the WFP has provided emergency food aid in the form of 20 000 t of cereals for 556 000 people.

II. POSSIBLE COMMUNITY ACTION

Following Morocco's request, it is proposed that food aid, in the form of 7 500 t of cereals to be delivered cif, be allocated to that country.¹

This quantity, which represents the requirements of 166 000 people over three months,² corresponds to about 10% of the general reserve as decided on by the Council on 19 May 1981 under the cereals programme.

The cost of this operation, which may be estimated at 1 295 000 ECU, does not involve additional expenditure, since it can be financed by funds available under the general budget of the European Communities for 1981.

III. CONCLUSION

The Commission proposes that the Council decide:

- i. to grant 7 500 t of cereals to the Kingdom of Morocco;
- ii. to pay the transport costs of this aid up to the cif stage.

This quantity is to be taken from the general reserve of the 1981 food aid programme.

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1. Under the 1981 programme, food aid in the form of 1 500 t of skimmed milk powder and 200 t of butteroil for distribution free of charge to the needy has been made available to Morocco.

The value of this aid may be estimated at 1.38 million ECU at world prices and 2.92 million ECU at internal prices. It is in the process of implementation.

2. At the rate of a 500 g ration per person per day.

PROPOSAL
FOR A COUNCIL DECISION
ON THE GRANTING OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID (CEREALS)
TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

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 the Council, by Decision 81/367/EEC of 19 May 1981 on the 1981 food-
aid programme (cereals),¹ set aside certain quantities for emergencies
and other unforeseen situations;

Whereas quantities are still available under that reserve;

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

Whereas the Community should respond favourably,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

SOLE ARTICLE

Emergency food aid in the form of 7 500 t of cereals from the reserve
under the 1981 programme shall be allocated, and delivered cif, to the
Kingdom of Morocco.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

1. OJ NO L 141, 27.5.1981, p. 37

