



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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February 27, 1974

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOOD AID PROGRAMME 1973/1974

The Commission has sent to the Council a proposal for a decision establishing the cereal aid programme for 1973/74 which the Community undertook under the 1971 Food Aid Convention.

The engagement was originally for 1,035,000 metric tons, but is now boosted to 1,287,000 metric tons with the enlargement of the Community.

Out of this total 580,000 metric tons (45%) will be used for Community action, 707,000 metric tons for national action. The total includes the aid already decided upon to the Sahel and Ethiopia.

28 other countries besides these and 6 international organisations have applied to the Community or its member states for aid.

Most of the requests are aimed at surmounting the cereal deficits. The aid is sold on the local markets and corresponding financial aid is given to development projects. For some countries, however, the aid will be given to distressed sections of the population, provided that its distribution is free.

The following criteria have been used to examine the demands:

- the level of imports needed to match demand in the coming agricultural season or, in some cases, the nutritional needs of the population;
- the amount of home-grown cereals available per head in the coming agricultural year;
- the amount of food aid granted in the past;
- the economic and financial situations of the countries involved.

The total cost of cereal aid in 1973/74 has been calculated at 76,745,000 units of account (about £38.5 million). If one includes the proposals already presented for milk-powder and butter-oil for 1973/74 this figure is increased to more than 190 million units of account (£95 million), not including the supplementary aid given to the Sahel.