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I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2374/96
of 13 December 1996**

**on applications for financing of the aid granted by the Member States to
producers' organizations in the fisheries sector in order to improve the quality
and marketing of their products**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2636/95 of 13 November 1995 laying down conditions for the grant of specific recognition and financial aid to producers' organizations in the fisheries sector in order to improve the quality of their products ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 7 (3) thereof,

Whereas applications for financing the aid granted by the Member States in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2636/95 must contain certain information whereby it can be ascertained whether expenditure meets the requirements of that Regulation;

Whereas, in order for effective checks to be carried out, the Member States must keep the supporting documents at the disposal of the Commission for three years after the last payment has been made;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Management Committee on Fisheries Structures,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The applications for financing referred to in Article 7 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 2636/95 must be drawn up in accordance with the tables in the Annexes.
2. Information on recoveries must be presented as soon as possible after each recovery using the form in Annex III.

Article 2

The Member States shall keep at the disposal of the Commission all the supporting documents or certified copies in their possession on the basis of which the aid provided for in Article 7b of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 ⁽²⁾ was granted for each beneficiary for three years after the last payment was made.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Emma BONINO

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 271, 14. 11. 1995, p. 8.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 388, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.

ANNEX I

APPLICATION FOR FINANCING

of aid granted by the Member States to producers' organizations which have been granted specific recognition in order to improve the quality of their products in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2636/95

Documents to be presented each year for each producers' organization within the deadline provided for in Article 7 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 2636/95. The table must be completed each time for the year in question and the previous years

Member State

— European serial number of the producers' organization ⁽¹⁾

— Producers' organization (name and address)

.....

— Date of specific recognition to improve quality

AID GRANTED FOR THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE DATE OF SPECIFIC RECOGNITION OF THE PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION

	Date of payment of the aid by the Member State	Amount ⁽²⁾ of aid granted by Member State pursuant to Article 7b of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92	Amount ⁽²⁾ of reimbursement requested by Member State
Aid for the first year following the date of specific recognition			
Aid for the second year following the date of specific recognition			
Aid for the third year following the date of specific recognition			

In accordance with Article 7b (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92, the application for financing must be accompanied by a report describing the progress as regards improvements in quality for each producers' organization benefiting from the specific recognition.

Stamp and signature of the competent authority

⁽¹⁾ Serial number in the list of producers' organizations published each year in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 105/76 (OJ No L 20, 28. 1. 1976, p. 39).

⁽²⁾ Amount in national currency.

ANNEX II

Tables concerning the aid granted to producers' organizations for improvements in quality

Documents to be presented each year for each producers' organization within the deadline provided for in Article 7 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 2636/95

Member State:

— European serial number of the producers' organization ⁽¹⁾

AID GRANTED FOR THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE DATE OF SPECIFIC RECOGNITION OF THE PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION

1. Factors used in calculating the aid

Products		Value of production: turnover of the first sale of products concerned under the quality plan ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ 19 ..		Amount ⁽³⁾ of research costs for carrying out the quality plan 19 ..
Description of products	Common customs tariff No	Turnover	Quantity (tonnes)	

2. Calculation of the aid

Amount of administrative costs in accordance with Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2636/95 used to implement the quality plan	Amount of aid granted under Article 7b(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 19 ..	Percentage of aid granted calculated in accordance with Article 7b(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92	
		Percentage of value of production	Percentage of research and administrative costs
(c)			
(e)			
Total:			

It is confirmed that:

- (a) The producers' organization keeps separate accounts for the products covered by the quality plan.
- (b) The costs in question are used to implement the quality plan.
- (c) The amount of administrative costs referred to in Article 7b of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 has been determined in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2636/95 and approved by the competent authorities of the Member State.

Stamp and signature of the competent authority

⁽¹⁾ Serial number in the list of producers' organizations published each year in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 105/76.

⁽²⁾ Turnover and quantity of products concerned during the year for which aid is applied for.

⁽³⁾ Amount in national currency.

ANNEX III

Recoveries made during 19... for aid paid in accordance with Article 7b of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92

Document to be presented for each producers' organization after each recovery. The table must be filled out each time for the year in question and the previous years

Member State

— European serial number of the producers' organization ⁽¹⁾

— Producers' organization (name and address)

.....

— Date of specific recognition to improve quality

	Date of recovery by the Member State	Date of original payment of aid by the Member State	Amount of the eligible aid recovered by the Member State	Amount to be deducted from the FIFG's contribution
Recoveries during the second year following the date of specific recognition				
Recoveries during the third year following the date of specific recognition				
Recoveries during the fourth year following the date of specific recognition				
Recoveries during the ... year following the date of specific recognition				

Stamp and signature of the competent authority

⁽¹⁾ Serial number in the list of producers' organizations published each year in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 105/76.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2375/96
of 13 December 1996
amending Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 on detailed rules for the application of
the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 of 18 May 1972 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1363/95⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 23 (2) thereof,

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 3223/94⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1890/96⁽⁴⁾, lays down detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables;

Whereas Article 4 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 provides that the standard import values are to cease to apply where no average representative price has been communicated to the Commission for seven consecutive days; whereas, where, pursuant to those provisions, no standard import value applies to a given product, provision should be made for the standard import value applicable to that product to be equal to the last average of the standard values in force; whereas it should also be made clear that the use as a standard import value of the last unit value within the meaning of Articles 173 to 176 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2153/96⁽⁶⁾, is to be limited to the beginning of each period of application set out in the Annex to that Regulation;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fruit and Vegetables,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 4 (4) and (5) of Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 are hereby replaced by the following:

'4. During the periods of application set out in Part A of the Annex, the standard import values shall remain applicable until they are changed. They shall cease to apply, however, where no average representative price has been communicated to the Commission for seven consecutive market days.

Where, pursuant to the first subparagraph, no standard import value applies to a given product, the standard import value applicable to that product shall be equal to the last average standard import value.

5. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, with effect from the first day of the periods of application set out in Part A of the Annex, where it has not been possible to calculate a standard import value, the standard import value applicable to a product shall be equal to the last unit value applicable to that product within the meaning of Articles 173 to 176 of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93.'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 118, 20. 5. 1972, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 132, 16. 6. 1995, p. 8.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 337, 24. 12. 1994, p. 66.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 249, 1. 10. 1996, p. 29.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 253, 11. 10. 1993, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 289, 12. 11. 1996, p. 1.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2376/96

of 13 December 1996

derogating, for an additional period of one year, from Regulation (EEC) No 920/89, as regards carrots covered with pure peat produced in Sweden and Finland

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular Article 149 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 of 18 May 1972 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1363/95⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 12 (1) thereof,

Whereas Commission Regulation (EEC) No 920/89 of 10 April 1989 laying down quality standards for carrots, citrus fruit and dessert apples and pears and amending Regulation No 58⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1017/96⁽⁴⁾, lays down provisions for the packaging of carrots;

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 3064/94 of 15 December 1994 derogating for a period of two years from Regulation (EC) No 920/89 as regards Swedish carrots⁽⁵⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 298/96⁽⁶⁾, allows carrots produced in Sweden and covered with peat to be marketed on the Swedish market and exported to third countries; whereas the transitional period for the packaging of Swedish carrots in peat expires on 31 December 1996;

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 3063/94 of 15 December 1994 laying down the conditions for the application of the temporary derogation from the common

quality standards for fresh fruit and vegetables for Austrian and Finnish products⁽⁷⁾ exempts fresh fruit and vegetables produced in Finland from compliance with common quality standards when they are marketed on the national market of either of those countries; whereas, for Finland, that exemption expires on 31 December 1996;

Whereas, pending the application of the reform of the common organization of the market in fresh fruit and vegetables, the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 3064/94 relating to the marketing of Swedish carrots covered in peat should, as a transitional measure, be extended by one year and should cover the corresponding Finnish products;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fruit and Vegetables,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Carrots produced in Sweden and in Finland and covered with pure peat may be marketed in Sweden and Finland and exported to third countries.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1997.

It shall apply until 31 December 1997.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 118, 20. 5. 1972, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 132, 16. 6. 1995, p. 8.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 97, 11. 4. 1989, p. 19.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 135, 6. 6. 1996, p. 21.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 323, 16. 12. 1994, p. 23.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 39, 17. 2. 1996, p. 18.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No L 323, 16. 12. 1994, p. 22.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2377/96
of 13 December 1996

amending Regulation (EC) No 1261/96 establishing the forecast supply balance for the Canary Islands as regards wine products qualifying under the specific arrangements provided for in Articles 2 to 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/92

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/92 of 15 June 1992 concerning specific measures for the Canary Islands with regard to certain agricultural products⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2537/95⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 2 and Articles 3 (4) and 4 (4) thereof,

Whereas Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1261/96⁽³⁾ fixes the aid necessary to permit the supply of Community wine to the Canary Islands for the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997; whereas that aid was fixed on the basis of the amounts laid down for export refunds on Community wines; whereas those refunds have recently been reduced by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2083/96⁽⁴⁾ amending Regulation (EC) No 2805/95⁽⁵⁾ fixing the export refunds in the wine sector;

Whereas the application of the criteria for fixing Community aid to the current situation on the market in the

product group in question and in particular to the quotations or prices for those products in the European part of the Community and on the world market results in the aid for supplies to the Canary Islands being fixed at the levels set out in the Annex;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Wine,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1261/96 is hereby replaced by the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 173, 27. 6. 1992, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 260, 31. 10. 1995, p. 10.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 163, 2. 7. 1996, p. 15.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 279, 31. 10. 1996, p. 23.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 291, 6. 12. 1995, p. 10.

ANNEX

ANNEX II

Aid granted in respect of the products listed in Annex I

(ecu/bl)	
Product code	Aid applicable to products coming from the Community
2204 21 79 120	4,782
2204 21 79 220	4,782
2204 21 79 180	17,398
2204 21 79 280	20,369
2204 21 79 910	4,782
2204 21 80 180	17,398
2204 21 80 280	20,369
2204 21 83 120	4,782
2204 21 83 180	23,764
2204 21 84 180	23,764
2204 29 62 120	4,782
2204 29 62 220	4,782
2204 29 62 180	17,398
2204 29 62 280	20,369
2204 29 62 910	4,782
2204 29 64 120	4,782
2204 29 64 220	4,782
2204 29 64 180	17,398
2204 29 64 280	20,369
2204 29 64 910	4,782
2204 29 65 120	4,782
2204 29 65 220	4,782
2204 29 65 180	17,398
2204 29 65 280	20,369
2204 29 65 910	4,782
2204 29 71 180	17,398
2204 29 71 280	20,369
2204 29 72 180	17,398
2204 29 72 280	20,369
2204 29 75 180	17,398
2204 29 75 280	20,369
2204 29 83 120	4,782
2204 29 83 180	23,764
2204 29 84 180	23,764

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2378/96

of 13 December 1996

fixing the maximum buying-in price and the quantities of beef to be bought in
under the 173rd partial invitation to tender as a general intervention measure
pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 1627/89

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 of 27 June 1968 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2222/96⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 6 (7) thereof,

Whereas, pursuant to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2456/93 of 1 September 1993 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 as regards the general and special intervention measures for beef⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2015/96⁽⁴⁾, an invitation to tender was opened pursuant to Article 1 (1) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1627/89 of 9 June 1989 on the buying in of beef by invitation to tender⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2337/96⁽⁶⁾, and for lean bovine animals by Article 1 (2) by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1931/96⁽⁷⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2015/96;

Whereas, in accordance with Article 13 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 2456/93, a maximum buying-in price is to be fixed for quality R3, where appropriate, under each partial invitation to tender in the light of tenders received; whereas, in accordance with Article 14 of that Regulation, only tenders quoting prices not exceeding the maximum buying-in price and not exceeding the average national or regional market price, plus the amount referred to in paragraph 1 of that Article, are to be accepted;

Whereas, once tenders submitted in respect of the 173rd partial invitation to tender have been considered and taking account, pursuant to Article 6 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 805/68, of the requirements for reasonable support of the market and the seasonal trend in slaughtering, the maximum buying-in price and the quantities which may be bought in should be fixed;

Whereas, following the buying in of forequarters, the price of such products should be defined on the basis of carcase prices;

Whereas the quantities offered at present exceed the quantities which may be bought in; whereas a reducing coefficient or, where appropriate, depending on the differences in prices and the quantities tendered for, several reducing coefficients should accordingly be applied to the quantities which may be bought in in accordance with Article 13 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 2456/93;

Whereas the time limit for delivering the products bought in under this invitation to tender has been laid down in Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2301/96⁽⁸⁾;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Beef and Veal,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Under the 173rd partial invitation to tender opened pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 1627/89:

(a) for category A:

- the maximum buying-in price shall be ECU 266 per 100 kg carcasses or half-carcasses of quality R3,
- the price of forequarters shall be derived from the carcase price using the coefficient 0,80 for the straight cut,
- the maximum quantity of carcasses, half-carcasses or forequarters accepted shall be 6 692 tonnes,
- the quantities offered at a price greater than ECU 253,50 shall be multiplied by a coefficient of 30 %, in accordance with Article 13 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 2456/93;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 24.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 296, 21. 11. 1996, p. 50.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 225, 4. 9. 1993, p. 4.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 269, 22. 10. 1996, p. 16.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 159, 10. 6. 1989, p. 36.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 318, 7. 12. 1996, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No L 254, 8. 10. 1996, p. 35.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ No L 311, 30. 11. 1996, p. 43.

(b) for category C:

- the maximum buying-in price shall be ECU 266 per 100 kg carcasses or half-carcasses of quality R3,
- the price of forequarters shall be derived from the carcass price using the coefficient 0,80 for the straight cut,
- the maximum quantity of carcasses, half-carcasses or forequarters accepted shall be 4 111 tonnes;
- the quantities offered at a price greater than ECU 253,50 shall be multiplied by a coefficient of 30 % in accordance with Article 13 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 2456/93;

— the maximum buying-in price shall be ECU 355,49 per 100 kg carcasses or half-carcasses,

— the maximum quantity of carcasses or half-carcasses shall be 504 tonnes.

Article 2

(c) for carcasses and half-carcasses of lean animals as referred to in Article 6b of Regulation (EEC) No 805/68:

This Regulation shall enter into force on 16 December 1996.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2379/96

of 13 December 1996

authorizing the conclusion of long-term private storage contracts for table wine, grape must, concentrated grape must and rectified concentrated grape must in respect of the 1996/97 wine year

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 of 16 March 1987 on the common organization of the market in wine⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1592/96⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 32 (5) and 83 thereof,

Whereas the forward estimate drawn up for the 1996/97 wine year indicates that the quantities of table wine available at the beginning of the wine year exceed by more than four months' supply those normally used up over the year; whereas the conditions for authorization of long-term storage contracts specified in Article 32 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 are therefore met;

Whereas the abovementioned forward estimate indicates the existence of surpluses of all types of table wine and of table wines which stand in close economic relationship to those types of table wine; whereas it is necessary by the same token to open this possibility for grape must, concentrated grape must and rectified concentrated grape must;

Whereas the market for must and concentrated must for grape juice production is expanding and to promote uses of vine products other than winemaking permission should be granted for must and concentrated grape must placed under a storage contract covered by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1059/83⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1262/96⁽⁴⁾, that is intended for grape juice production to be sold from the fifth month of the contract onwards on simple notification by the producer to the intervention agency; whereas to promote export of these products this same possibility should apply;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Wine,

Article 1

During the period 16 December 1996 to 15 February 1997 long-term private storage contracts may be concluded, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 1059/83, for:

- table wines, provided that the conditions of Article 6 (3) of that Regulation are met, and
- grape must, concentrated grape must and rectified concentrated grape must.

Article 2

The minimum quality conditions that must be met by table wines which may be covered by a storage contract shall be as set out in the Annex hereto.

By derogation to Article 6 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1059/83, table wines produced in Portugal must have a reduced sugar level not greater than 4 grams per litre.

Article 3

Producers who, within the limits laid down in the first subparagraph of Article 5 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1059/83, wish to conclude a long-term storage contract for a table wine shall, when submitting applications for conclusion of a contract, advise the intervention agency of the total quantity of table wine they have produced during the current wine year.

For this purpose producers shall submit a copy of the production declaration(s) drawn up pursuant to Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1294/96⁽⁵⁾.

Article 4

1. For the 1996/97 wine year, producers who have not applied for an advance pursuant to Article 14 (2) of Regu-

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 84, 27. 3. 1987, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 206, 16. 8. 1996, p. 31.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 116, 30. 4. 1983, p. 77.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 163, 2. 7. 1996, p. 18.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 166, 5. 7. 1996, p. 14.

lation (EEC) No 1059/83 may, from the first day of the fifth month of storage onwards, sell the grape must or concentrated grape must in question for exportation or for production of grape juice.

2. In such cases producers shall inform the intervention agency in accordance with the terms of Article 1a of Regulation (EEC) No 1059/83.

The intervention agency shall check that the must or concentrated grape must is turned into grape juice or exported.

Article 5

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

MINIMUM QUALITY CONDITIONS FOR TABLE WINES

I. White wines

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) minimum actual alcoholic strength: | 10,5 % vol; |
| (b) minimum total acidity (expressed as tartaric acid): | 5 grams per litre and 4 grams per litre for table wines produced in Spain and Portugal; 4,5 grams per litre for table wines produced in Greece; |
| (c) maximum volatile acidity: | 9 milli-equivalents per litre; |
| (d) maximum sulphur dioxide content: | 155 milligrams per litre. |

II. Red wines

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) minimum actual alcoholic strength: | 10,5 % vol; |
| (b) minimum total acidity (expressed as tartaric acid): | 5 grams per litre and 4 grams per litre for table wines produced in Spain and Portugal; 4,5 grams per litre for table wines produced in Greece; |
| (c) maximum volatile acidity: | 11 milli-equivalents per litre; |
| (d) maximum sulphur dioxide content: | 115 milligrams per litre. |

Rosé wines must comply with the conditions laid down above for red wines except as regards their sulphur dioxide content to which the same maximums as those fixed for white wines apply.

Conditions (a) and (d) do not apply to table wines of types R III, A II and A III.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2380/96
of 13 December 1996
establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of
certain fruit and vegetables

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 of 21 December 1994 on detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1890/96⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 4 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92 of 28 December 1992 on the unit of account and the conversion rates to be applied for the purposes of the common agricultural policy⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 150/95⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 3 (3) thereof,

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 lays down, pursuant to the outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the criteria whereby the Commission fixes the standard values for imports from third

countries, in respect of the products and periods stipulated in the Annex thereto;

Whereas, in compliance with the above criteria, the standard import values must be fixed at the levels set out in the Annex to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The standard import values referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 shall be fixed as indicated in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 14 December 1996.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 337, 24. 12. 1994, p. 66.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 249, 1. 10. 1996, p. 29.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 387, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 22, 31. 1. 1995, p. 1.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 13 December 1996 establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

(ECU/100 kg)		
CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0702 00 45	204	80,4
	624	222,6
	999	151,5
0707 00 40	624	113,5
	999	113,5
0709 10 40	220	118,7
	999	118,7
0709 90 79	052	78,3
	999	78,3
0805 10 61, 0805 10 65, 0805 10 69	052	53,2
	204	52,2
	388	39,4
	448	29,8
	624	36,0
	999	42,1
0805 20 31	052	80,8
	204	73,3
	999	77,1
0805 20 33, 0805 20 35, 0805 20 37, 0805 20 39	052	58,6
	464	166,0
	999	112,3
0805 30 40	052	71,1
	528	50,0
	600	76,6
	999	65,9
0808 10 92, 0808 10 94, 0808 10 98	060	43,0
	064	50,1
	400	78,6
	404	73,0
	999	61,2
0808 20 67	064	78,2
	091	49,8
	400	107,4
	624	67,7
	999	75,8

⁽¹⁾ Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 68/96 (OJ No L 14, 19. 1. 1996, p. 6). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2381/96
of 13 December 1996
fixing the import duties in the cereals sector

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 of 30 June 1992 on the common organization of the market in cereals⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 923/96⁽²⁾,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 of 28 June 1996 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 as regards import duties in the cereals sector⁽³⁾, and in particular Article 2 (1) thereof,

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 provides that the rates of duty in the Common Customs Tariff are to be charged on import of the products referred to in Article 1 of that Regulation; whereas, however, in the case of the products referred to in paragraph 2 of that Article, the import duty is to be equal to the intervention price valid for such products on importation and increased by 55 %, minus the cif import price applicable to the consignment in question;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 10 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, the cif import prices are calculated on the basis of the representative prices for the product in question on the world market;

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 lays down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 for the 1996/97 marketing year as regards import duties in the cereals sector;

Whereas the import duties are applicable until new duties are fixed and enter into force; whereas they also remain in force in cases where no quotation is available for the reference exchange referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 during the two weeks preceding the next periodical fixing;

Whereas, in order to allow the import duty system to function normally, the representative market rates recorded during a reference period should be used for calculating the duties;

Whereas application of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 results in import duties being fixed as set out in the Annex to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The import duties in the cereals sector referred to in Article 10 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 shall be those fixed in Annex I to this Regulation on the basis of the information given in Annex II.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 16 December 1996.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 December 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 161, 29. 6. 1996, p. 125.

ANNEX I

Import duties for the products listed in Article 10 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92

CN code	Description	Import duty by land inland waterway or sea from Mediterranean, the Black Sea or Baltic Sea ports (ECU/tonne)	Import duty by sea from other ports ⁽²⁾ (ECU/tonne)
1001 10 00	Durum wheat ⁽¹⁾	12,51	2,51
1001 90 91	Common wheat seed	40,24	30,24
1001 90 99	Common high quality wheat other than for sowing ⁽³⁾	40,24	30,24
	medium quality	44,80	34,80
	low quality	64,88	54,88
1002 00 00	Rye	74,11	64,11
1003 00 10	Barley, seed	74,11	64,11
1003 00 90	Barley, other ⁽³⁾	74,11	64,11
1005 10 90	Maize seed other than hybrid	91,00	81,00
1005 90 00	Maize other than seed ⁽³⁾	91,00	81,00
1007 00 90	Grain sorghum other than hybrids for sowing	74,11	64,11

⁽¹⁾ In the case of durum wheat not meeting the minimum quality requirements referred to in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1249/96, the duty applicable is that fixed for low-quality common wheat.

⁽²⁾ For goods arriving in the Community via the Atlantic Ocean or via the Suez Canal (Article 2 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96), the importer may benefit from a reduction in the duty of:

- ECU 3 per tonne, where the port of unloading is on the Mediterranean Sea, or
- ECU 2 per tonne, where the port of unloading is in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Finland or the Atlantic Coasts of the Iberian Peninsula.

⁽³⁾ The importer may benefit from a flat-rate reduction of ECU 14 or 8 per tonne, where the conditions laid down in Article 2 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96 are met.

ANNEX II

Factors for calculating duties

(period from 29 November to 12 December 1996)

1. Averages over the two-week period preceding the day of fixing:

Exchange quotations	Minneapolis	Kansas City	Chicago	Chicago	Minneapolis	Minneapolis
Product (% proteins at 12 % humidity)	HRS2. 14 %	HRW2. 11,5 %	SRW2	YC3	HAD2	US barley 2
Quotation (ECU/tonne)	112,45	117,73	111,44	83,49	172,90 ⁽¹⁾	108,06 ⁽¹⁾
Gulf premium (ECU/tonne)	32,76	24,03	10,23	12,07	—	—
Great Lakes premium (ECU/tonne)	—	—	—	—	—	—

⁽¹⁾ Fob Gulf/Duluth.

2. Freight/cost: Gulf of Mexico — Rotterdam: ECU 11,59 per tonne; Great Lakes — Rotterdam: ECU 22,18 per tonne.

3. Subsidy (third paragraph of Article 4 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1249/96: ECU 0,00 per tonne).

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 6 December 1996

amending Decision 93/731/EC on public access to Council documents

(96/705/Euratom, ECSC, EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 151 (3) thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, and in particular Article 30 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 121 (2) thereof,

Having regard to its Rules of Procedure, and in particular Article 22 thereof,

Whereas experience has shown that a number of amendments need to be made to Council Decision 93/731/EC of 20 December 1993 on public access to Council documents⁽¹⁾;

Whereas provision should be made for some flexibility in the time limits for the General Secretariat's reply to an application for access to a Council document and the Council's reply to a confirmatory application; whereas use of this option should be exceptional;

Whereas Article 9 of Decision 93/731/EC is obsolete and should be replaced,

Article 1

Decision 93/731/EC is hereby amended as follows:

(i) in footnote 1 to Article 2 (1), '170 rue de la Loi' shall be replaced by '175 rue de la Loi';

(ii) the following paragraph shall be added to Article 7:

'5. Exceptionally, the Secretary-General, having notified the applicant in advance, may extend by one month the time limits laid down in the first sentence of paragraph 1 and in paragraph 3';

(iii) Article 9 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 9

In 1996, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary-General shall submit a report on the implementation of this Decision.'

Article 2

This Decision shall take effect on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Done at Brussels, 6 December 1996.

For the Council

The President

D. SPRING

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 340, 31. 12. 1993, p. 43.

COUNCIL DECISION

of 6 December 1996

concerning the adoption of the guidelines for the indicative programmes concerning financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA)

(96/706/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Article 1

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 of 23 July 1996 on financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA)⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 9 (1) thereof,

The guidelines for the indicative programmes concerning financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA indicative programmes), as shown in the Annex to this Decision, are hereby adopted.

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Article 2

Whereas it is necessary for the Commission to take into account the findings and recommendations of reports from the Court of Auditors on cooperation with the Mediterranean partners;

These guidelines shall be reviewed in conjunction with Regulation (EC) No 1488/96, as provided for in Article 15 (6) thereof.

Whereas Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 provides that the Council shall, on a proposal from the Commission, adopt guidelines for the indicative programmes which are to define the main objectives of cooperation with the Mediterranean partners;

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Whereas the Commission submitted a Communication on 8 March 1995 entitled 'Strengthening the Mediterranean policy of the European Union: proposals for the implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean partnership';

It shall take effect on the date of its publication.

Whereas, in the Barcelona Declaration, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership has been adopted to meet the challenges facing the region,

Done at Brussels, 6 December 1996.

For the Council

The President

D. SPRING

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 189, 30. 7. 1996, p. 1.

ANNEX

GUIDELINES FOR MEDA INDICATIVE PROGRAMMES

1. The programme established by Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 (hereinafter referred to as the 'MEDA programme') represents the European Community's main financial instrument for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The programme has the main purpose of encouraging and supporting the reform of the economic and social structures of the Mediterranean partners, notably in preparation for free trade with the European Community.
2. The MEDA programme is founded on the respect for democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, of which they are an essential element and whose violation would justify the taking of appropriate measures.

The experience gained through the bilateral protocols

3. The MEDA programme is to build on the experience gained through the operation of the instruments of the redirected Mediterranean policy, namely the bilateral financial protocols and a facility for regional cooperation. After four generations of financial protocols with the Mediterranean partners it has become necessary to seek an improvement in the system of delivery of cooperation activities. If the MEDA programme is to be capable of responding to the challenge of significantly intensified cooperation, both in new and existing domains, then it is necessary to increase flexibility in the programming. This is to avoid dispersion of the cooperation effort over too wide a number of activities and beneficiaries and to give an incentive for rapid and efficient implementation of commitment and payment credits. Equally, the MEDA programme must be capable of adaptation over time as lessons are learned through its implementation and as the needs and priorities of the Mediterranean partners evolve in the light of socioeconomic challenges. In particular, a sufficiently high degree of flexibility for the amounts allocated to untied budgetary support in the indicative programmes should be maintained in order to adapt the financial allocations to the pace of reform and to the progress achieved in macroeconomic stabilization.

Multiannual programming

4. The extra flexibility of the MEDA programme needs to be complemented by a clear programming methodology in order to enhance effectiveness of planning and implementation. In particular it is necessary to give the partners an indication of the resources which are to be made available over the coming years. Such multiannual programming will increase the possibilities for interventions having a medium-term policy impact. Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 (hereinafter referred to as the MEDA Regulation) contains a financial reference figure of ECU 3 424,5 million for the period 1995 to 1999⁽¹⁾, which is to be partitioned between bilateral programmes and a regional programme. The MEDA indicative programmes should identify activities which contribute to the attainment of the wider objectives of the partnership. However, it is an important principle of the new programming approach that these may be revised, in accordance with implementation performance, together with the accompanying indicative bilateral financial allocations. Care will be taken to ensure transparency, adequate project monitoring and overall consistency of action undertaken using budget appropriations.

Strategic interventions

5. Ultimately the successful socioeconomic development of the Mediterranean partners will depend on their own efforts. Thus, to be effective the indicative programmes must be based on a shared understanding of the economic, social and political challenges facing each partner and the region as a whole. A regular and rich dialogue both at bilateral and regional level is therefore a precondition for the success of the MEDA programme. The indicative programmes will concentrate on a limited number of priority sectors to be fixed in dialogue with these countries as well as in coordination with the bilateral efforts of Member States and other donors and in particular on those areas where the Community can make the most positive contribution by drawing on its stores of experience and know-how. With this aim the Commission shall take care to provide for the necessary coordination with the Member States and other donors in its programming and programme implementation so as to ensure the best synergies with their respective activities and interventions. The Commission and the Member States will consult closely throughout the design and drafting of the indicative programmes and during the formulation of individual project proposals. Each indicative programme and project proposal shall contain a reference to relevant studies on past experience and results.

⁽¹⁾ The Cannes European Council of 12 June 1995 gave its agreement to a global financial envelope for Mediterranean third countries for the period 1995 to 1999 of ECU 4 685 million. The MEDA programme of ECU 3 424,5 million constitutes the largest part. The remainder is made up of specific country protocols and thematic budget lines.

6. As it pursues the goal of sustainable economic and social development the Commission will, in the analysis contained within the indicative programmes and in its identification and design of programmes of cooperation, consider carefully the issues of environmental equilibrium, financial and economic viability, sustainability, gender repercussions and local institutional capacity (including those for research and technological development and technology transfer). The Commission, further in its analysis, will consider carefully the effectiveness of past Community activities, and the actions being supported by Member States and other donors. Such target groups as the neediest strata of the population, women and youth should receive particular attention in the analysis. At a bilateral level, the MEDA programme will provide support to the partners in the fields of economic transition and strengthening of socioeconomic equilibrium. Environmental impact assessment forms will be required for the relevant projects of bilateral and regional programmes, according to Community legislation in this field. The Commission should include appropriate conditionality in the project proposal and ensure coherence with Bretton Woods' criteria when necessary, in conformity with Annex II to the MEDA Regulation.
7. (i) The economies of the region face the common challenge of creating employment opportunities and an improved standard of living in the context of rapid demographic growth. The necessary acceleration in development can only be reached through greater competitiveness within the global economy. This requires an improvement, *inter alia*, of the capacity for innovation of the partners. As free trade is gradually established, so the governments must leave room for private-sector-led growth and for foreign investment. Sound macroeconomic management must be completed by pro-growth and investment-friendly economic policies and regulatory framework. The indicative programmes will take into account the characteristics of each economy when planning interventions.
- (ii) Economic growth needs to be accompanied by greater social cohesion. Inequalities in access to essential services such as education, health, social safety nets, housing and water persist which reduce the life-chances of significant portions of the population of the partners and which have a negative effect on long-term growth prospects. These needs should be addressed urgently through improvements in the quality of services and greater efficiency in their delivery. Strategic interventions are required for the development of human resources in general as they represent the region's greatest asset for the future. In particular, the integration of the young and of women into the workplace constitutes an important factor of social development for the region.

The bilateral and regional programmes are to be complementary

8. Support will be given through the measures set out in the MEDA Regulation. Furthermore, from the ongoing dialogue with the partners it has been possible to develop the following general guidelines.
9. The activities undertaken at bilateral and regional level are to be complementary and/or mutually reinforcing to enable the political and economic impact of the MEDA programme to be sustained and the objectives jointly adopted in the Barcelona Declaration more effectively reached. Drawing from its own experience, it is the Union's view that the future prosperity and stability of its partners rest on increased cooperation between themselves in the economic, social and political spheres. The elimination of barriers will foster economies of scale and greater market opportunities thus encouraging investment, facilitating the exchange of ideas and increasing mutual understanding. The regional indicative programme will reflect the progress made in the framework of the Barcelona process in taking action at a multilateral level on issues of common concern, as laid down in the agreed declaration, and will strengthen the activities in support of decentralized cooperation. However, regional activities will not displace funding of bilateral activities. Each indicative bilateral programme will include information on all activities, financed under any Community regional cooperation programme which affects or will affect that particular partner country.

Decentralized approach

10. In order to reach target populations more effectively and to widen the participation in the MEDA programme to the different parts of civil society that are included in the scope of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the Commission will strive to design and implement its activities together with the actors who are directly concerned and who have the expertise necessary for successful design and implementation of interventions. The Commission will pay close attention to the careful management and the periodic review of the impact of such programmes.

Bilateral indicative programmes

11. Concerning the bilateral programmes, the priorities are to be decided taking into account the stage of development of each country's economy and society as well as the capacity of its institutions. In the light of the conclusion or implementation of association agreements, the indicative programmes are to be decided taking into account the needs of the Mediterranean partners, their capacity to absorb funds and the progress made in structural reform process, as well as the priorities identified with them, in particular those emerging from the conclusions of the economic dialogue and from the association agreements themselves. A considerable effort will be made to promote programmes which could contribute to the development of democracy and respect for human rights. Among the aspects and fields of economic and social development suitable for financial support, the following are general indications of the main thrust of bilateral indicative programmes between the Community and individual Mediterranean partners, during the first years of the MEDA programme.

12. *Concerning the Maghreb:*

- support for Morocco is to be based on two complementary main axes. The first addresses the improvement of socioeconomic balance through measures on rural development, water and the development of social services, in particular in education and health care. In this context the needs of the Northern Provinces shall also be taken into account. The second axis concerns the support for economic transition in the context of the implementation of the Association Agreement and includes, in particular, budgetary support to underpin a medium-term strategy of macroeconomic stabilization and broad structural reforms as well as measures enhancing enterprise competitiveness,
- for Tunisia, support is to be concentrated on two complementary principal axes. The first, support for economic transition in the context of the implementation of the Association Agreement, broadly comprises the following activities: budgetary support for economic reforms, assistance for economic upgrading (to include the development of the financial sector), promotion of inward investment, a programme of professional training and the modernization of economic infrastructure. The second axis, the reinforcement of social equilibrium, provides in particular, for activities in support of development of rural areas and employment creation, including the development of micro-enterprises,
- interventions in favour of Algeria are to be focused on two complementary main areas. The first axis is to support socioeconomic equilibrium through improvement of the instruments in favour of social welfare, in order to address fundamental social needs and employment creation in the short term, as well as support for the housing sector. Measures in favour of the environment shall also be undertaken. The second axis is to consist of support for economic transition through programmes of structural adjustment, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) development, a programme of industrial restructuring and modernization as well as development of the financial sector.

13. *Concerning the Mashreq:*

- support for Egypt is to be based on two complementary principal axes. Strengthening of social balance is to constitute the greater part of financial cooperation. It shall comprise a contribution to the social development fund for the improvement of services, poverty alleviation and employment creation, together with a programme to reform basic education. Furthermore, measures to protect the environment shall be undertaken. Support to economic transition shall constitute the second axis and shall include a programme of industrial modernization, a programme of professional training and deepening and widening of the financial sector,
- cooperation with Jordan should principally consist of a programme of structural adjustment which shall provide the necessary budgetary support in order to stabilize the serious macroeconomic imbalances which exist and to promote structural economic reforms while taking into account the most sensitive social sectors. Other operations may also be undertaken such as the development of risk capital to promote enterprises. In the social sphere, professional training measures may be undertaken, as may activities in favour of the environment,

- in the programme for the Lebanon, support shall continue to be given to the process of reconstruction. In the area of socioeconomic balance, emphasis is to be placed on strengthening the administrative capacity of the State, including local authorities and management of public services. Interventions in the water sector and for protection of the environment should also be taken. Concerning economic transition, reconstruction, enhancement of the private sector, risk capital, professional training and certification measures are to be supported,
 - for Syria, in order to accompany progressive economic liberalization, cooperation shall focus on upgrading of the administration, particularly in the public utilities and social services, local government and central ministries. This shall have the dual objective of providing a more favourable environment for the private sector and of improving the living conditions of the population. Support shall also be given to modernization of the banking sector,
 - since 1993 the European Union has been the major financial partner of the Palestinian Authority. The principal objective of this cooperation has been to promote the Palestinian economy in order to reduce its dependence on Israel by developing its productive base and facilitating its integration into regional and international trade. The priorities for assistance shall be reconstruction and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, as well as in support of the process of Palestinian institution building and the development of the private sector.
14. The programme of Turkey will prioritize interventions related, on the one hand, to the necessary economic adaptation and, on the other hand, support to social services and the environment, and will have the general objective of supporting the establishment of a customs union. Thus measures are to be taken to promote the competitiveness of SMEs and to develop the administration through institutional cooperation. Moreover, projects and programmes in the field of the environment shall be undertaken. Activities in the social sectors shall focus on the needs of the poor and on education and health.

Support for economic transition

15. The Mediterranean partner countries need help to prepare for free trade with the Community and to raise the standard of living. The wider objective of Community interventions will be to increase the competitiveness of the partners' economies, with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth, in particular through improved export performance.

To this end assistance will be given in particular in the following fields:

- the creation of an enabling environment through the reinforcement of the macroeconomic framework and the development of the legislation and institutions necessary for a competitive market economy, which is the necessary basis for economic and social development. For this purpose, structural adjustment operations should be supported in close cooperation with the Bretton Woods' institutions, for those partners who are ready to implement the necessary reforms,
- the creation of an appropriate legal and administrative framework that is stable, reliable and consistent with Euro-Mediterranean partnership goals,
- trade facilitation, including assistance in the field of customs and indirect taxation, harmonization of standards and veterinary and phyto-sanitary regulations, as well as export promotion programmes,
- harmonization of legislation and standards and the strengthening of institutions in the field of the environment,
- development of the financial sector through support at the policy level and assistance to strengthen the central banks, to develop the commercial banks and to widen and deepen the financial markets; particular attention will be given to the stimulation of domestic savings and investment, as well as promotion of investment into the region, especially European. It is particularly important to improve access to financial services, and notably for private SMEs,
- improvement of business performance, in particular by the modernization of SMEs, as well as by promoting and encouraging the development of new ones, through business consultancy, training and information,
- business collaboration between European and Mediterranean companies, especially SMEs, through, for example, networking, joint-ventures, licensing, franchising, subcontracting, and specialized service centres,
- promotion of privatization to ensure the effective transfer of ownership, management and control to the private sector,

- cooperation in the energy, transport, water and telecommunications sectors regarding policy, interconnection and interoperability of infrastructure and networks, the improvement of quality and reduction of cost of service provision, industrial cooperation including on industrial zones and research and technological development,
- support to micro-enterprises with a view to promoting entrepreneurs and helping to integrate all segments of society in the process of economic growth,
- human resource development through the improvement of the management, targeting and quality of vocational and management training,
- enhancing the innovation systems of the partners through improved research and technological development capacities and technology transfer mechanisms and supporting the development of appropriate national innovation policies.

Strengthening the socioeconomic balance

16. In order to alleviate the short-term costs of economic transition and better prepare societies for the future, it is particularly important that this process should be accompanied by appropriate measures in the field of social policy.

- Rural development remains an essential strategy for combating poverty and avoiding a widening welfare gap between rural and urban populations. A large proportion of the populations of the Mediterranean partners remains attached culturally and economically to the countryside. An increased exodus towards urban areas could have socially, politically and environmentally serious consequences. Increasing efficiency in agriculture has an important role to play in improving rural standards of living, as does the development of small and micro-enterprises. Targeted programmes are also required to address essential needs such as primary health and education services, water supply and sewage as well as energy.
- Particular attention should be accorded to preserving the environmental equilibrium in the partner countries through supporting the capacity-building in the field of environmental assessment, management, legislation and enforcement. Interest rate subsidies may be granted on loans of the European Investment Bank to offset the costs of improving the environment for environmental projects.
- Programmes addressing the improvement of living conditions in urban areas should be supported including, where appropriate the development of social safety nets through pro-active employment policies and anti-poverty measures. This may take the form of a social fund which promotes employment for disadvantaged social sectors and also supports targeted health and education measures. Assistance may be given to the formulation of social policy, particularly in the fields of health and unemployment insurance and pension schemes.
- Improvements in the social infrastructure and in the delivery of social services should be supported. Primary health may be financed also as part of the strategic objective of reducing population growth. Promotion of adequate housing should also be supported.
- Improvements in the delivery of services in the field of education and training should be supported, particularly as regards primary education and vocational training for girls and women and notably in rural areas.
- Measures to promote a reinforced cooperation in the field of fisheries and sustainable exploitation of marine resources.

The development of civil society

17. The development of civil society should be supported through measures to promote human rights, democratization and the rule of law. Support for such measures may include decentralized cooperation. Cooperation in the field of research and technological development and technology transfer is to be stimulated, bringing in contact private and public actors. Cultural activities are to be supported which promote dialogue and exchange between cultural associations and networks. Trans-Mediterranean information and communication activities should be strengthened in the framework of the development of a truly Euro-Mediterranean information society. Social partners and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to play an active role.

Guidelines for the regional indicative programme

18. Regional cooperation shall be complementary to bilateral cooperation and shall address the three main areas of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. Among the aspects and fields of economic and social development suitable for financial support mentioned in the Barcelona Declaration and in Annex II to the MEDA Regulation, the following are indications of the main thrust of current regional indicative programmes between the Community and Mediterranean partners. Due account shall be taken of the progress made at the meetings organized in the context of the follow-up to the Barcelona inter-ministerial conference. The overall aim shall be to encourage better understanding between the partners through increased knowledge of regional problems in the political, economic, social and cultural fields, facilitating the exchange of best practice and transfer of know-how and promotion of joint projects of common interest. Furthermore the European Union will continue to provide support to the Middle East Peace Process.
19. In the political field, as in the case of bilateral programmes, through measures falling within the scope of the MEDA Regulation, support may be given to:
- the development of democracy and the respect of human rights,
 - the improvement of the transparency and efficiency of governmental institutions,
 - the building of confidence so as to reinforce stability in the region.
20. In the economic and financial fields assistance will be given to prepare for the free trade area by promoting competitiveness and facilitating the economic transition in particular in the fields of customs regulations, rules of origin, statistics, norms and veterinary and phyto-sanitary regulations, as well as banking and stock markets.

Appropriate measures will be taken in the fields of transport, energy (where the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum will act as a coordinating instrument), telecommunications and information technology, regional cooperation, tourism, the environment, science and technology, water and fishing. Networking among research and development centres and economic operators to facilitate the transfer of know-how and the development of joint ventures and business opportunities will also be supported.

21. In the social and cultural spheres, decentralized programmes of exchanges between the civil societies of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will be implemented in the fields of academia, media, local government, technology and other fields of mutual interest.

Further measures such as dialogues, projects of common interest or networking will be taken, as identified in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, to support local government, cultural dialogue, media, youth exchanges, exchanges between civil society. Research and technology development, technology transfer, information and communication activities will be strengthened through recourse to modern information technology.

Finally, technical assistance may be given with the aim of combating drugs, terrorism and international crime. Measures could address the exchange of information and experience, the compatibility of data, and the strengthening of legal systems.

Periodic review and ex-post evaluation

22. The Commission shall pay the greatest attention to the careful management of the bilateral and regional indicative programmes and the individual projects and programmes financed through them. They will be subject to periodic review and ex-post evaluation. Such analyses will include an assessment of the extent to which specific objectives have been realized, the economic viability and cost-effectiveness of the various activities, as well as their contribution to the overall Euro-Mediterranean partnership. Particular attention will also be paid to the way in which the indicative programmes and projects have addressed the key issues set out in these guidelines. The results of such analyses will be shared with the Member States.
-