COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 18.05.1998
COM(1998) 321 final

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

amending Regulation (EC) No 3290/94 on the adjustments and transitional arrangements required in the agricultural sector in order to implement the agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Community's undertakings on agriculture under the Uruguay Round negotiations were essentially implemented by Council Regulation (EC) No 3290/94. Article 3 of the original version of that Regulation provides that the Commission, acting according to the management committee procedure, may, up until 30 June 1996, adopt the transitional measures necessary to facilitate the switch-over from the old to the new arrangements and that those measures may not apply beyond that date. The Council has twice extended the period of application of the Commission's transitional powers, most recently until 30 June 1998 by Regulation (EC) No 1161/97. The Commission has used that power to ensure a smooth transition to the arrangements introduced as a result of the Uruguay Round in the common market organisations concerned. It has also used Article 3 to ensure that the undertakings entered into by the Community in certain preferential agreements with third countries (for example, the Lomé Convention, association agreements with the Mediterranean countries, etc.) are respected pending adjustment of those agreements to the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations. Some of those agreements are currently being adjusted, but the process is unlikely to be completed before 30 June 1998, so the draft extends by a further year the period during which the Commission may adopt transitional measures.

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No /98

of June 1998

amending Regulation (EC) No 3290/94 on the adjustments and transitional arrangements required in the agricultural sector in order to implement the agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3290/94 of 22 December 1994 on the adjustments and transitional arrangements required in the agricultural sector in order to implement the agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations[1], and in particular Article 3(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 3290/94, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1161/97, authorises the Commission to adopt the measures required to facilitate the switch-over from the arrangements existing before implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations to those resulting from the adjustments to agricultural legislation provided for in the said Regulation; whereas such measures may only be adopted up to 30 June 1998 and may not apply beyond that date; whereas certain matters which are currently regulated by transitional measures cannot be settled definitively before the above date; whereas those matters concern in particular certain arrangements

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[1] OJ L 349, 31.12.1994, p. 105. Regulation amended by Regulation (EC) No 1161/97 (OJ L 169, 27.6.1997, p. 1).

entered into with third countries; whereas it is therefore necessary to extend by one year the period during which the Commission may adopt transitional measures,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 3290/94, '30 June 1998' is hereby replaced by '30 June 1999'.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 July 1998.

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

Done at , June 1998.

For the Council

The President

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