# COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2312/2003

## of 29 December 2003

## opening a standing invitation to tender for the resale on the Community market of barley held by the French intervention agency

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 organisation of the market in cereals ([1]), and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 of 28 July 1993 laying down the procedure and conditions for the sale of cereals held by intervention agencies ([2]), provides, in particular, that cereals held by intervention agencies are to be sold by tendering procedure at prices preventing market disturbance.

(2) France still has intervention stocks of barley.

(3) Because of the difficult weather conditions in much of the Community, cereal production has been significantly reduced in the 2003/04 marketing year. This situation has resulted in high prices locally, causing particular difficulties for livestock holdings and the feedingstuffs industry, which are finding it hard to obtain supplies at competitive prices.

(4) It is therefore appropriate to make stocks of barley held by the French intervention agency available on the internal market. The period of presentation of the offers for the last partial invitation to tender under Regulation (EC) No 1513/2003 ([3]) having expired on 18 December 2003, it is advisable to open a new standing invitation to tender.

(5) To take account of the situation on the Community market, provision should be made for the Commission to manage this invitation to tender. In addition, provision must be made for an award coefficient for tenders offering the minimum selling price.

(6) When the French intervention agency notifies the Commission, the tenderers should remain anonymous.

(7) With a view to modernising management, the information required by the Commission should be sent by electronic mail.

(8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

The French intervention agency shall open a standing invitation to tender for the sale on the Community market of 18 367 tonnes of barley held by it.

*Article 2*

The sale provided for in Article 1 shall take place in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93.

However, notwithstanding that Regulation:

(a) tenders shall be drawn up on the basis of the actual quality of the lot to which they apply;

(b) the minimum selling price shall be set at a level which does not disturb the cereals market.

*Article 3*

Notwithstanding Article 13(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 the tender security is set at EUR 10 per tonne.

*Article 4*

1. The closing date for the submission of tenders for the first partial invitation to tender shall be 8 January 2004 at 09.00 (Brussels time).

The closing dates for the submission of tenders for subsequent partial invitations to tender shall be each Thursday at 09.00 (Brussels time), with the exception of 8 April and 20 May 2004.

The closing date for the submission of tenders for the last partial tendering procedure shall be 27 May 2004 at 09.00 (Brussels time).

2. Tenders shall be lodged with the French intervention agency:

Office national interprofessionel des céréales
21, avenue Bosquet
F-7534 Paris Cedex 07
Fax (33) 144 18 20 80

([1]) OJ L 181, 1.7.1992, p. 21. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1104/2003 (OJ L 158, 27.6.2003, p. 1).
([2]) OJ L 191, 31.7.1993, p. 76. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1630/2000 (OJ L 187, 26.7.2000, p. 24).
([3]) OJ L 217, 29.8.2003, p. 20.