COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1540/2003

of 29 August 2003

amending Regulation (EEC) No 1609/88 as regards the latest date by which butter must have been taken into storage in order to be sold pursuant to Regulations (EEC) No 3143/85 and (EC) No 2571/97

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 806/2003 [2], and in particular Article 10,

Whereas:

(1) Pursuant to Article 1 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2571/97 of 15 December 1997 on the sale of butter at reduced prices and the grant of aid for cream, butter and concentrated butter for use in the manufacture of pastry products, ice-cream and other foodstuffs [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 635/2000 [4], the butter put up for sale must have been taken into storage before a date to be determined.

(2) In view of the trends on the butter market and the quantities of stocks available, the date in Article 1 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1609/88 [5], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1679/2000 [6], relating to the butter referred to in Regulation (EC) No 2571/97, should be amended.

(3) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Milk and Milk Products,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 1609/88, the second subparagraph is hereby replaced by the following:

'The butter referred to in Article 1(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 2571/97 must have been taken into storage before 1 October 2001.'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following 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, 29 August 2003.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 48.
[2] OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 350, 20.12.1997, p. 3.
[4] OJ L 76, 25.3.2000, p. 9.
[5] OJ L 143, 10.6.1988, p. 23.
[6] OJ L 193, 29.7.2000, p. 30.