COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 864/2003

of 19 May 2003

opening a standing invitation to tender for the export to certain third countries of rye held by the German 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]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1666/2000 ([2]), and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 ([3]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1630/2000 ([4]), lays down the procedure and conditions for the disposal of cereals held by intervention agencies.

(2) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3002/92 ([5]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 770/96 ([6]), lays down common detailed rules for verifying the use and/or destination of products from intervention.

(3) By Regulation (EC) No 2441/2001 ([7]), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 882/2002 ([8]), and by Regulation (EC) No 1080/2002 ([9]), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1851/2002 ([10]), the Commission opened standing invitations to tender for the export of rye held by the German intervention agency to zone VII and to certain third countries respectively. For the sake of clarity and rationality those Regulations should be replaced by a single act.

(4) Given the current market situation, a standing invitation to tender should be opened for the export to certain third countries of 1 200 000 tonnes of rye held by the German intervention agency.

(5) Special rules must be laid down to ensure that the operations are properly carried out and monitored. To that end, securities should be lodged to ensure that the goals of the operations are achieved without excessive cost to the operators. Derogations should accordingly be made to certain rules, in particular those laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93.

(6) Where removal of the rye is delayed by more than five days or the release of one of the securities required is delayed for reasons imputable to the intervention agency, the Member State concerned should pay compensation.

(7) 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 German intervention agency shall issue a standing invitation to tender for the export of rye held by it in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93, save as otherwise provided in this Regulation.

Article 2

1. The invitation to tender shall cover a maximum of 1 200 000 tonnes of rye for export to all third countries with the exception of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kyrghyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

2. The quantity of rye referred to in paragraph 1 shall be stored in the regions listed in Annex I.

Article 3

1. No export refund or tax or monthly increase shall be granted on exports carried out under this Regulation.

2. Article 8(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 shall not apply.

3. Notwithstanding the third paragraph of Article 16 of Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93, the price to be paid for the export shall be that quoted in the tender, with no monthly increase.

([1]) OJ L 181, 1.7.1992, p. 21.
([2]) OJ L 193, 29.7.2000, p. 1.
([3]) OJ L 191, 31.7.1993, p. 76.
([4]) OJ L 187, 26.7.2000, p. 24.
([5]) OJ L 301, 17.10.1992, p. 17.
([6]) OJ L 104, 27.4.1996, p. 13.
([7]) OJ L 329, 14.12.2001, p. 20.
([8]) OJ L 139, 29.5.2002, p. 23.
([9]) OJ L 164, 22.6.2002, p. 11.
([10]) OJ L 280, 18.10.2002, p. 3.

Article 4

1. Export licences shall be valid from their date of issue within the meaning of Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93 until the end of the fourth month thereafter.

2. Tenders submitted in response to the invitation to tender opened by this Regulation may not be accompanied by export licence applications submitted under Article 49 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1291/2000 ([1]).

Article 5

1. Notwithstanding the third subparagraph of Article 7(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 2131/93, the time limit for submission of tenders in respect of the first partial invitation to tender shall be 09.00 (Brussels time) on 22 May 2003.

2. The time limit for submission of tenders in respect of subsequent partial invitations to tender shall be 09.00 (Brussels time) each Thursday thereafter.

3. The last partial invitation to tender shall expire at 09.00 (Brussels time) on 27 May 2004.

4. Tenders shall be lodged with the German intervention agency.

Article 6

1. The intervention agency, the storer and the successful tenderer shall, at the request of the latter and by common agreement, either before or at the time of removal from storage as the successful tenderer chooses, take reference samples for counter-analysis at the rate of at least one sample for every 500 tonnes and shall analyse the samples. The intervention agency may be represented by a proxy, provided this is not the storer.

Reference samples for counter-analysis shall be taken and analysed within seven working days of the date of the successful tenderer's request or within three working days if the samples are taken on removal from storage.

In the event of a dispute, the analysis results shall be forwarded to the Commission.

2. The successful tenderer must accept the lot as established where the final result of sample analyses indicates a quality:

(a) higher than that specified in the notice of invitation to tender;

(b) higher than the minimum characteristics laid down for intervention but below the quality described in the notice of invitation to tender, providing that the differences do not exceed the following limits:

— one kilogram per hectolitre as regards specific weight, which must not, however, be less than 68 kg/hl,

— one percentage point as regards moisture content,

— half a percentage point as regards the impurities specified in points B.2 and B.4 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 824/2000 ([2]), and

— half a percentage point as regards the impurities specified in point B.5 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 824/2000, the percentages admissible for noxious grains and ergot, however, remaining unchanged.

Where the final result of sample analyses indicates a quality higher than the minimum characteristics laid down for intervention but below the quality described in the notice of invitation to tender, and a difference exceeding the limits set out in point (b), the successful tenderer may:

— accept the lot as established, or

— refuse to take over the lot in question.

In the case provided for in the second indent of the second subparagraph, the successful tenderer shall be discharged of all obligations relating to the lot in question and the securities shall be released provided the Commission and the intervention agency are immediately notified using the form given in Annex II.

Where the final result of sample analyses indicates a quality below the minimum characteristics laid down for intervention, the successful tenderer may not remove the lot in question. The successful tenderer shall be discharged of all obligations relating to the lot in question and the securities shall be released provided the Commission and the intervention agency are immediately notified using the form set out in Annex II. In the cases provided for in the second indent of the second subparagraph of paragraph 2 and in the third subparagraph thereof, the successful tenderer may request the intervention agency to supply another lot of intervention rye of the quality laid down at no additional charge. In that case, the security shall not be released. The lot must be replaced within three days of the date of the successful tenderer's request. The successful tenderer shall immediately inform the Commission thereof using the form set out in Annex II.

3. If, as a result of successive replacements, the successful tenderer has not received a replacement lot of the quality laid down within one month of the date of the first request for a replacement, the successful tenderer shall be discharged of all obligations and the securities shall be released, provided the Commission and the intervention agency have been immediately informed using the form set out in Annex II.

4. If the rye is removed before the results of the analyses are known, all risks shall be borne by the successful tenderer from the time the lot is removed, without prejudice to any means of redress against the storer.

5. Except where the final results of analyses indicate a quality below the minimum characteristics laid down for intervention, as referred to in the third subparagraph of paragraph 2, the costs of taking the samples and conducting the analyses provided for in paragraph 1, but not of inter-bin transfers, shall be borne by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) in respect of up to one analysis per 500 tonnes. The costs of inter-bin transfers and any additional analyses requested by the successful tenderer shall be borne by that tenderer.

([1]) OJ L 152, 24.6.2000, p. 1.

([2]) OJ L 100, 20.4.2000, p. 31.