COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 555/2003
of 27 March 2003
on the issuing of export licences for wine-sector products

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 883/2001 of 24 April 2001, laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 as regards trade with third countries in products in the wine sector [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2380/2002 [2], and in particular Article 7 and Article 9(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Article 63(7) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2585/2001 [4], limits the grant of export refunds for wine-sector products to the volumes and expenditure contained in the Agreement on Agriculture concluded during the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations.

(2) Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2001 lays down the conditions under which the Commission may take specific measures to prevent an overrun of the quantity laid down or the budget available under the said Agreement.

(3) On the basis of information on export licence applications available to the Commission on 26 March 2003, the quantity still available for the period until 30 April 2003, for destination zone 1: Africa, referred to in Article 9(5) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2001, could be exceeded unless the issue of export licences with advance fixing of the refund is restricted. Therefore, the submission of applications and the issue of licences should be suspended for this zone until 1 May 2003,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Export licences with advance fixing of the refund for wine-sector products for which applications are submitted from 19 to 25 March 2003 under Regulation (EC) No 883/2001 shall be issued in concurrence with 100 % of the quantities requested for zone 1: Africa.

2. The issue of export licences for wine-sector products referred to in paragraph 1 for which applications are submitted from 26 March 2003 and the submission of export licence applications from 28 March 2003 for destination zone 1: Africa shall be suspended until 1 May 2003.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 28 March 2003.

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

Done at Brussels, 27 March 2003.

For the Commission
J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ
Agriculture Director-General

[1] OJ L 128, 10.5.2001, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 117.
[3] OJ L 179, 14.7.1999, p. 1.
[4] OJ L 345, 29.12.2001, p. 10.