COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 481/2003
of 17 March 2003
on the supply of vegetable oil as food aid

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 of 27 June 1996 on food-aid policy and food-aid management and special operations in support of food security [1], as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1726/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council [2], and in particular Article 24(1)(b) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The abovementioned Regulation lays down the list of countries and organisations eligible for Community aid and specifies the general criteria on the transport of food aid beyond the fob stage.

(2) Following the taking of a number of decisions on the allocation of food aid, the Commission has allocated vegetable oil to certain beneficiaries.

(3) It is necessary to make these supplies in accordance with the rules laid down by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2519/97 of 16 December 1997 laying down general rules for the mobilisation of products to be supplied under Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 as Community food aid [3]. It is necessary to specify the time limits and conditions of supply to determine the resultant costs.

(4) In order to ensure that the supplies are carried out for a given lot, provision should be made for tenderers to be able to mobilise either rapeseed oil or sunflower oil. The contract for the supply of each such lot is to be awarded to the tenderer submitting the lowest tender,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Vegetable oil shall be mobilised in the Community, as Community food aid for supply to the recipient listed in the Annex, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2519/97 and under the conditions set out in the Annex.

The supply shall cover the mobilisation of vegetable oil produced in the Community. Mobilisation may not involve a product manufactured and/or packaged under inward processing arrangements.

Tenders shall cover either rapeseed oil or sunflower oil. Tenders shall be rejected unless they specify the type of oil to which they relate.

The tenderer is deemed to have noted and accepted all the general and specific conditions applicable. Any other condition or reservation included in his tender is deemed unwritten.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 17 March 2003.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 166, 5.7.1996, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 234, 1.9.2001, p. 10.
[3] OJ L 346, 17.12.1997, p. 23.