COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2136/2002

of 29 November 2002

fixing the ceilings on financing for measures to improve the quality of olive oil production in the 2003/2004 production cycle and derogating from Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation No 136/66/EEC of 22 September 1966 on the establishment of a common organisation of the market in oils and fats [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1513/2001 [2],

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 of 10 March 1999 laying down measures to improve the quality of olive oil production [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 593/2001 [4], and in particular Article 3(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 lays down the procedures for financing measures, for each Member State and each 12-month production cycle beginning on 1 May, to improve the quality of olive oil production and its environmental impact.

(2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1793/2002 [5] fixes the estimated production of olive oil for the 2001/2002 marketing year, including production of table olives expressed as olive oil equivalent, at 2 804 056 tonnes. This corresponds to 1 639 730 tonnes for Spain, 411 588 tonnes for Greece, 715 426 tonnes for Italy, 34 590 tonnes for Portugal and 2 722 tonnes for France. The amount withheld from production aid for this olive oil marketing year serves as a basis for financing measures to improve the quality of oil during the production cycle commencing on 1 May 2003.

(3) The ceilings on financing for measures eligible for reimbursement by the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund should be fixed.

(4) The measures have relatively fixed minimum costs, which may mean that the ceilings on total financing provided for in Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 are too low for some Member States. Appropriate limits should therefore be set for those cases.

(5) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Oils and Fats,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For the production cycle from 1 May 2003 to 30 April 2004, the ceilings on financing for the measures laid down in the first subparagraph of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999 shall be:

— Spain	14 137 960 EUR,
— Greece	7 416 900 EUR,
— France	48 502 EUR,
— Italy	10 057 907 EUR,
— Portugal	698 799 EUR.

Article 2

As an exception to Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 528/1999, the additional national financial contribution from Member States which under Article 1 may receive up to EUR 100 000 in financing shall not exceed EUR 250 000.

Article 3

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

[1] OJ 172, 30.9.1966, p. 3025/66.
[2] OJ L 201, 26.7.2001, p. 4.
[3] OJ L 62, 11.3.1999, p. 8.
[4] OJ L 88, 28.3.2001, p. 6.
[5] OJ L 272, 10.10.2002, p. 11.