

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 18 May 1976

on the sale and use of common wheat held by the Italian intervention agency

(76/487/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 of 29 October 1975 on the common organization of the market in cereals⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 832/76⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 7 (4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2738/75 of 29 October 1975 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in cereals⁽³⁾, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas there are supply difficulties at present on the Italian market in common wheat; whereas this situation stems not only from the structural shortfall in Italian production but also from speculative withholding of common wheat owing to the depreciation of the lira and from the reduction in imports, which are less easily effected as a result of the monetary situation;

Whereas, in order to cope with these difficulties, the Council decided to make common wheat from stocks held by the intervention agencies of other Member States available to the Italian intervention agency; whereas, in addition, the Italian intervention agency sold part of the stocks of common wheat which it still held on the domestic market;

Whereas, despite these measures, market prices are still higher than the threshold price; whereas, as a result, the price of bread is becoming an undue burden on the consumer;

Whereas Article 39 of the Treaty stipulates, *inter alia*, that the objectives of the common agricultural policy are to assure the availability of supplies and to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices;

Whereas the Italian intervention agency still holds more than 100 000 metric tons of common wheat; whereas, in order to alleviate the difficult situation which is further aggravated by the disaster in the north of the country quickly and effectively, the above quantity should be placed at the disposal of the Italian Government immediately; whereas this measure should enable the Italian Government to assign that quantity to the making of a type of bread which, owing to its low purchase price, is consumed by the least-favoured sections of the population;

Whereas, in these circumstances, provision should be made, in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 2738/75, for placing the stocks of common wheat held by the Italian intervention agency at the disposal of the Italian Government by a procedure other than an invitation to tender; whereas the price at which the common wheat in question is placed at the Italian Government's disposal is to be fixed at a flat rate, account being taken of the conditions laid down in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 376/70 of 27 February 1970 laying down the procedure and conditions for the disposal of cereals held by interven-

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 281, 1. 11. 1975, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 100, 14. 4. 1976, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 281, 1. 11. 1975, p. 49.

tion agencies ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 129/73 ⁽²⁾;

Whereas this operation is justified only by the exceptional nature of the situation; whereas, furthermore, the timetable set for the execution thereof should not in any way interfere with the normal development of prices in accordance with the rules for the common organization of the market in common wheat,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. By way of derogation from Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 2738/75, the Italian intervention agency shall place at the disposal of the Italian Government until 31 May 1976 100 000 metric tons of common wheat at present stored in the regions ('regioni') indicated in the Annex, subject to the conditions laid down in the following paragraphs.

2. The price to be paid for the operation provided for in paragraph 1 is fixed at a flat rate of 168.87 units of account per metric ton.

3. The Italian Government shall hand over the quantity laid down in paragraph 1 to the milling

industry to be processed for the making of bread known as 'pane comune' at a reduced price which will enable the least-favoured consumers to purchase that bread.

The Italian Government shall take the necessary measures to ensure that this operation is carried out in such a way that there is no discrimination between flour mills.

The final date for handing over and delivering wheat to the milling industry shall be 18 June 1976.

4. The Italian Republic shall inform the Commission without delay of the measures taken pursuant to this Decision and of the progress of the operations provided for herein.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Italian Republic.

Done at Brussels, 18 May 1976.

For the Council

The President

J. HAMILIUS

ANNEX

	<i>metric tons</i>
Piemonte	19 934.5
Lombardia	24 781.2
Veneto	14 726.7
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	2 669.2
Emilia Romagna	28 393.5
Toscana	6 463.4
Marche	3 031.3

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 43, 28. 2. 1970, p. 49.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 17, 20. 1. 1973, p. 17.