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INFORMATION MEMOCEREAL PRICES FOR THE 1963/64 SEASON

The Ministers of Agriculture have reached the following agreement regarding the harmonization of cereal target prices for the marketing season 1963/64.

- 1) For wheat other than durum: the upper and lower limits remain unchanged; For barley and rye: the upper limits remain unchanged, but this represents in effect a reduction in prices to growers in Germany and Luxembourg since these countries have accepted the common quality standard. The increase (DM 3 and DM 8 respectively) in the lower limits for these cereals is based on this effective reduction; the lower limit for maize is based on the lower limit for barley.  
The limits for the 1963/64 season are therefore as follows:

	<u>Upper limit</u> (per metric ton)	<u>Lower limit</u> (per metric ton)
Wheat other than durum	475,69 DM	357,70 DM
Barley	412,26 DM	288,68 DM (1) (285,68)
Rye	432,69 DM	270,84 DM (262,84)
Maize		262,40 DM (249,60)

(1) Except for Italy: Lit. 41 120 (barley threshold price).

The figures in brackets are those for last season.

2. In addition the under-mentioned Member States will fix:

- a) maximum target prices as follows:

Belgium	- Bfrs.	5 230	} for wheat other than durum
Luxembourg	- Lfrs.	5 850	
Italy	- Lit.	69 000	
France	- DM	324,49	for maize

- b) minimum target prices for barley and rye as follows:

Belgium	- Bfrs.	4 340	for barley
	- Bfrs.	4 030	for rye
Luxembourg	- Lfrs.	4 340	for barley
the Netherlands	- Fl.	292	for barley
	Fl.	262,45	for rye

These intermediary prices for the Benelux countries, which serve of course to prevent prices tending towards the upper or lower limits, will not be published in the official gazette of the Communities. They will appear in the Council's minutes as a "declaration of intent".

It will be recalled that all these prices apply at the beginning of the season in the marketing centre of the area having the largest deficit (for the upper limits) and of the area with the largest surplus (for the lower limits).

3. The Member States will fix the target prices and intervention prices in respect of the same quality standards as are now defined for the threshold prices (see Regulation No. 61, 1962). However, Germany has not yet come entirely into line with the uniform quality standard for barley. There are also a few small exceptions in respect of the quality standard for wheat other than durum in the Federal Republic and in Italy.
4. For the time being therefore the notion of a pilot cereal with uniform price relationships between at least the most important home-grown cereals has been dropped. However, a harmonized ratio has been accepted between the threshold prices for barley and the types of cereals for which no target price is fixed. With barley at 100, these relationships are:

Oats	between 90 and 100
Maize	between 93 and 109
Buckwheat	between 85 and 120
Sorghum	between 90 and 105
Millet	between 90 and 105
Canary seed	between 90 and 120

Note: It will be recalled that target and threshold prices are fixed by the Member States within limits laid down by the Council. The prices for the 1963/64 season will come into force on 1 July 1963.

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