

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 594 final

Brussels, 6 November 1979

DELAYS IN DELIVERIES OF CEREALS AS FOOD AID

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

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1. At the 33rd meeting of the Food Aid Committee and the 88th session of the International Wheat Council a number of countries strongly criticized the Community and its Member States of the delays that have accumulated since 1972/73 marketing year in the implementation of the cereal food aid programmes under the Food Aid Convention.

2. Following surveys carried out in mid-September, the delays were:

(tonnes)

Contribution year	Total commitment	Amount not committed	Amount outstanding
1972/1973	1 161 000	42 015	42 015
1973/1974	1 287 000	51 205	51 205
1974/1975	1 287 000	64 882	59 883
1975/1976	1 287 000	114 433	109 428
1976/1977	1 287 000	26 336	26 336
1977/1978	1 287 000	50 318	96 735
1978/1979	1 287 000	1 021 776	600 704
1979/1980	1 287 000		

N.B. The above figures concern the food aid commitment in cereals. Some Member States, however, in particular the Netherlands, gave aid in cereals above their commitment.

The total outstanding amount to date is therefore 986 306 t. i.e. an amount which represents around threequarters of the Community's annual commitment.

3. Every effort should be made by the national government departments to make up these delays as quickly as possible and ensure that the 1979/80 programme is committed the bulk of it implemented by July 1980 (they should endeavour to have the Conventions ratified for in certain Member States law of ratification is holding up implementation of national food aid commitments).

There are a number of reasons for such action, mainly:

(i) There is a certain tightening of the wheat market (higher demand, available supplies insufficient, prices increasing sharply) and this is exposing the most deprived developing countries, i.e. those that receive Community food aid, to the danger of a more serious situation as regards nutrition than their present one;

(ii) A resolution was adopted at the 33rd meeting of the Committee to the effect that donors should endeavour to increase the amount of cereal food aid they give annually and countries not traditionally donors should be encouraged to accede to the Food Aid Convention in order to help achieve the target of a food aid volume of ten million tonnes of cereals per year.

This resolution is, it must be stressed, a counterproposal put forward by the EEC, Australia and Canada to the US proposals (supported by the developing countries recommending the implementation in 1979/80 of the additional commitments entered into at the Conference in Geneva.

4. The Commission for its part will be accelerating its procedures for undertaking Community action and accordingly to the Council that it decide that the Community programmes be implemented without delay. The Commission will also be asking the Council that the 1979/80 programme be adopted as soon as possible, or at least before 1 January 1980, so that it enter into force for the second half of the current marketing year.

ANNEX

Breakdown into Member States of the outstanding amounts shown in the above table

(tonnes)

Contribution year	EEC "9"	France	Germany	Netherlands	Belgium	Italy	Denmark	UK	Ireland	Luxembourg	TOTAL
1972/73	-	-	-	913	-	33 002	8 100	-	-	-	42 015
1973/74	-	8 000	-	-	-	30 329	13 367	-	-	-	51 205
1974/75	-	-	-	-	-	89 001	-	26	-	-	59 883
1975/76	-	-	-	-	-	100 495	-	10 694	-	-	109 428
1976/77	-	1 500	-	-	2 001	82 000	8 600	-	1 972	-	26 336
1977/78	5 918	2 402	-	-	2 315	82 000	-	6 862	3 100	56	96 735
1978/79	301 493	135 800	18 992	-	11 601	81 971	-	66 026	3 100	-	600 704

N.B. The above figures concern the food aid commitment in cereals. Some Member States, however, in particular the Netherlands, gave aid in cereals above their commitment.