



*European Communities  
Commission  
Press Release*

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The Commission Answers :

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FOOD IMPORTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Britain has been receiving substantial subsidies on imports of grain and sugar, according to a written answer by the Commission from Lord O'Hagan (UK/Independent) in the European Parliament. The answer was published today.

Lord O'Hagan asked :

The United Kingdom is dependent on imports for 43 % of its wheat, 100 % of its maize and 70 % of its sugar. It has been suggested by certain British commentators that the Community makes these imports more expensive by imposing levies on imports.

Can the Commission state (for the most recent week for which it has figures) for the three products mentioned :

1. What were the levies applicable on imports into the United Kingdom from non-Community countries?
2. What subsidies were available, in the form of monetary and accession compensatory amounts, on imports into the United Kingdom from other members of the Communities?

The Commission replied :

1. For wheat and maize during the third week of January 1975 there was :
  - no effective levy on imports into the United Kingdom,
  - a net subsidy on imports into the United Kingdom from non-Community countries amounting on average to :  
£6.09 per ton for wheat,      £5.55 per ton for maize,
  - a total subsidy on imports into the United Kingdom from other member states of the Community amounting on average to :  
£16.56 per ton for wheat,      £11.79 per ton for maize.

(Net amounts taking account of monetary compensatory amounts and accession compensatory amounts applicable during the period 20-25 January 1975.)
2. For sugar the levy on imports into the United Kingdom from non-Community countries has been nil since the autumn of 1973. In recent months imports of sugar from non-Community countries into the United Kingdom have been subsidised under the arrangements explained in the Commission's reply to the honourable member's written question no 674/74. 1) In addition during January 1975 subsidies on imports of :  
£19.94 per ton for white sugar,      £16.92 per ton for raw sugar,  
were applicable on imports into the United Kingdom both from other member states and from non-Community countries (monetary compensatory amounts applicable as from 3 January 1975).