



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 8.12.2003
COM(2003) 762 final

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION

**fixing for the 2004 fishing year the guide prices and Community producer prices
for certain fishery products pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products requires a guide price to be fixed for each of the products listed in Annex I and each of the products and groups of products listed in Annex II thereto. The calculation is made on the basis of the average of prices recorded for a significant proportion of Community output on wholesale markets or in ports during the three fishing years immediately preceding the year for which the price is fixed.

When fixing those prices, account is also taken of trends in production and demand and other factors such as the need to ensure stable market prices and support producers' incomes and the interests of consumers.

Compared with the period 2000-2002, average prices for white fish have fallen considerably over the period 2001-2003, with decreases of between -2% and -6% for most species and peaks down to -18%. During the first half of 2003, prices for white fish were generally lower than during the same period of the previous year. In the light of this unfavourable market situation, the Commission proposes decreases in the guide prices for most species of white fish of between -0,5% and -6%. On the other hand, the Commission recommends slight increases of between +1% and +1,5% for plaice, megrim, whole monkfish and sole. It is also proposed maintaining the price for dogfish at its current level.

As regards pelagic species, the change in average prices over 2001-2003 compared to 2000-2002 ranged from -7% to +16%. While prices for sardines, mackerel and anchovy have been increasing, the situation for herring, Spanish mackerel and albacore has deteriorated. The Commission is therefore proposing increases of the prices for these species between +1,5% (sardines and mackerel) and +2,5% (anchovies), except for herring, albacore and Spanish mackerel (decreases between -0,5% and -2%).

As regards other species, in particular crustaceans, the recent market situation has been less favourable. The Commission, therefore, proposes decreases in the corresponding prices.

Prices for frozen products have tended to decrease on the international markets with the exception of cuttlefish, octopus and prawns (other Penaeidae), for which the Commission proposes increases between +1% and +2%. The Commission also proposes maintaining current guide prices for squids (*Loligo*), common squids and *Illex*.

Furthermore, Article 26 of Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 requires a Community producer price to be fixed for tuna intended for the canning industry. The calculation is made on the basis of the average of prices recorded for a significant proportion of Community output on wholesale markets or in ports during the three fishing years immediately preceding the year for which the price is fixed.

The average Community price rose slightly in the period 2001-2003 compared with 2000-2002, although this trend reversed in the first six months of 2002. In the light of this market situation, the Commission proposes maintaining the Community producer price for 2004 at its current level.

Proposal for a

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**fixing for the 2004 fishing year the guide prices and Community producer prices
for certain fishery products pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 of 17 December 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products¹, and in particular Article 18(3) and Article 26(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 18(1) and Article 26(1) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 provide that a guide price and a Community producer price should be fixed for each fishing year in order to determine price levels for intervention on the market for certain fisheries products.
- (2) Article 18(1) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 requires the guide price to be fixed for each of the products and groups of products listed in Annexes I and II to that Regulation.
- (3) On the basis of the data currently available on the prices for the products concerned and the criteria referred to in Article 18(2) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000, the guide prices should be increased, maintained or reduced for the 2004 fishing year depending on the species.
- (4) Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 requires the Community producer price to be fixed for each of the products listed in Annex III to that Regulation. It is, however, sufficient to establish the Community producer price for only one of the products listed in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 since the prices for the other products may be calculated by means of the conversion factors established by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3510/82².
- (5) On the basis of the criteria laid down in the first and second indent of Article 18(2) and in Article 26(1) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000, the Community producer price for the 2004 fishing year should be maintained,

¹ OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, p. 22.

² OJ L 368, 28.12.1982, p. 27. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3899/92 (OJ L 392, 31.12.1992, p. 24).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For the fishing year from 1 January to 31 December 2004, the guide prices as provided for in Article 18(1) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 shall be as set out in Annex I to this Regulation.

Article 2

For the fishing year from 1 January to 31 December 2004, the Community producer prices as provided for in Article 26(1) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 shall be as set out in Annex II to this Regulation.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 2004.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Council
The President

ANNEX I

Annexes	Species Products listed in Annexes I and II to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000	Commercial presentation	Guide price (EUR/tonne)
I	1. Herring of the species <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Whole fish	267
	2. Sardines of the species <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Whole fish	581
	3. Dogfish (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	Whole fish or Gutted fish with head	1112
	4. Spotted dogfish (<i>Scyliorhinus spp.</i>)	Whole fish or Gutted fish with head	759
	5. Redfish (<i>Sebastes spp.</i>)	Whole fish	1177
	6. Cod of the species <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	1623
	7. Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	758
	8. Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	998
	9. Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	923
	10. Ling (<i>Molva spp.</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	1201
	11. Mackerel of the species <i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Whole fish	308
	12. Mackerel of the species <i>Scomber japonicus</i>	Whole fish	311
	13. Anchovy (<i>Engraulis spp.</i>)	Whole fish	1245
	14. Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head from 1.1.2002 to 30.4.2002	1079
		Whole fish or gutted fish with head from 1.5.2002 to 31.12.2002	1484
	15. Hake of the species <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	3713
	16. Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	2442
	17. Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	868
	18. Common flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	530
	19. Albacore or longfinned tunas (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Whole fish	2210
		Gutted fish with head	2464
	20. Cuttlefish (<i>Sepia officinalis</i> and <i>Rossia macrosoma</i>)	Whole	1637
	21. Monkfish (<i>Lophius spp.</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	2926
		Without head	5898
	22. Shrimp of the species <i>Crangon crangon</i>	Simply boiled in water	2354
	23. Northern prawn (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>)	Simply boiled in water	6344
		Fresh or chilled	1639
	24. Edible crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>)	Whole	1766
	25. Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)	Whole	5310
		Tails	4279
	26. Sole (<i>Solea spp.</i>)	Whole fish or gutted fish with head	6714
II	1. Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>)	Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	1956
	2. Hake of the genus <i>Merluccius spp.</i>	Frozen, whole, in original packages containing the same products	1258
		Frozen, filleted, in original packages containing the same products	1499
	3. Sea bream (<i>Dentex dentex</i> and <i>Pagellus spp.</i>)	Frozen, in lots or in original packages containing the same products	1586
	4. Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	Frozen, whole, in original packages containing the same products	4019
	5. Cuttlefish (<i>Sepia officinalis</i>) (<i>Rossia macrosoma</i>) (<i>Sepioloa rondeletti</i>)	Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	2006
	6. Octopus (<i>Octopus spp.</i>)	Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	2098
	7. Squid (<i>Loligo spp.</i>)	Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	1156
	8. Squid (<i>Ommastrephes sagittatus</i>)	Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	961
	9. <i>Illex argentinus</i>	Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	848
	10. Prawn of the family <i>Penaeidae</i> - Prawn of the species <i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i> - Other species of the family <i>Penaeidae</i>	Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	4035
		Frozen, in original packages containing the same products	8142

ANNEX II

Species Products listed in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000	Commercial specifications	Community producer price (EUR/tonne)
Yellow-fin tuna (Thunnus albacares)	Whole, weighing more than 10 kg each	1 207

The Community producer prices for the other products listed in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 shall be determined by means of the conversion factors referred to in Regulation (EEC) No 3510/82.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT		FISH/B/4 DATE: 16.10.2003	
1.	BUDGET HEADING: B1-261	APPROPRIATIONS:	
2.	TITLE: Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for the 2004 fishing year the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annexes I and II and the Community producer price for the fishery products listed in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000		
3.	LEGAL BASIS: Articles 18 and 26 of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000		
4.	AIM: Annual fixing of prices and certain aids in the fisheries sector (2004 fishing year)		
5.	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	12 MONTH PERIOD (EUR million)	FINANCIAL YEAR 2004 (EUR million)
5.0	EXPENDITURE - CHARGED TO THE EC BUDGET (REFUNDS/INTERVENTIONS) - NATIONAL AUTHORITIES - OTHER		18,075
5.1	REVENUE - OWN RESOURCES OF THE EC (LEVIES/CUSTOMS DUTIES) - NATIONAL		
		[n+2]	[n+3]
5.0.1	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	Measures restricted to the 2004 fishing year	
5.1.1	ESTIMATED REVENUE	(16.10.2003– 15.10.2004)	
5.2	METHOD OF CALCULATION: - Community withdrawals: EUR 2,8 million - Compensatory allowance for tuna: EUR 1,7 million - Autonomous withdrawals and carry-overs: EUR 2,2 million - Community carry-overs: EUR 4 million - Private storage aid: EUR 0,35 million - Operational programmes: EUR 6,8 million - Technical assistance: EUR 0,225 million		
6.0	CAN BE FUNDED BY APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDED IN RELEVANT CHAPTER OF CURRENT BUDGET		
6.1	CAN BE FUNDED BY TRANSFER BETWEEN CHAPTERS OF CURRENT BUDGET		
6.2	WILL A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BE NECESSARY?		NO
6.3	WILL APPROPRIATIONS NEED TO BE ENTERED IN FUTURE BUDGETS?		YES
OBSERVATIONS: Since this is a price-fixing measure, the impact on expenditure is indirect. The expenditure in question will largely depend on developments in the market situation and on quantities landed.			