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EN

Price:
EUR 3

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

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⁽¹⁾ Text of relevance to the EEA and to the EC/Switzerland Agreement

I

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

OPINIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

COMMISSION OPINION

of 11 February 2011

in application of Article 7 of European Parliament and Council Directive 98/37/EC as regards a prohibition measure adopted by the Dutch authorities in respect of an electric lawnmower bearing the trademark Intratuin, type 07426 MD-2009-156

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2011/C 45/01)

1. The notification by the Dutch authorities

Article 2(1) of Directive 98/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to machinery (that was applicable until 29 December 2009) states that Member States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that machinery covered by the Directive may be placed on the market and put into service only if it does not endanger the health and safety of persons and, where appropriate, domestic animals or property, when properly installed and maintained and used for its intended purpose.

Article 7(1) of the Directive provides that where a Member State ascertains that machinery bearing the CE marking used in accordance with its intended purpose is liable to endanger the safety of persons, and, where appropriate, domestic animals or property, it shall take all appropriate measures to withdraw such machinery from the market, to prohibit the placing on the market, putting into service or use thereof, or to restrict free movement thereof. The Member State shall immediately inform the Commission of any such measure, indicating the reason for its decision.

On 3 September 2009, the Dutch authorities notified to the European Commission a prohibition measure concerning the placing on the market of an electric lawnmower bearing the trademark Intratuin, type 07426. The machinery was manufactured by YAT Electrical Appliance Co., China and placed on the EU market by Intratuin Trade & Logistics, PO Box 228, 3440 AE Woerden, the Netherlands.

The file transmitted to the European Commission included the following documents:

- ‘GS’ certificate No S 50121261 issued by TÜV Rheinland to YAT Electrical Appliance Co., Ltd, North Shiwei Road, Yuxin Town, South Lake Zone, 314009, Jiaxing, Zhejiang, China relating to an electric lawnmower type YT5124AB,
- Certificate of Conformity to the Machinery Directive No AM 50121263 0001 issued by TÜV Rheinland for the same type of lawnmower,
- Sales contract SC0903028 issued by YAT Electrical Appliance Co., Ltd. 23-25 Maosheng Road, Lianghui Industriypark, Yuyao, Ningbo, China, indicating that the product references YT5124AB and 07426 refer to the same type of lawnmower.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 207, 23.7.1998, p. 1.

Pursuant to Article 7(2) of the Directive, the Commission is required, after consulting the parties concerned, to declare whether it finds such a measure justified or not. If the measure is found justified, the Commission shall inform the Member States so that they can take all appropriate measures with respect to the machinery concerned, in accordance with their obligations under Article 2(1).

2. The reasons given by the Dutch authorities

The measure taken by the Dutch authorities was founded on the failure of the electric lawnmower to comply with the following essential health and safety requirements of Annex I to Directive 98/37/EC with reference to the specifications of the harmonised European standard EN 60335-2-77:2000 — Household and similar electrical appliances — Safety — Part 2-77: Particular requirements for pedestrian controlled mains-operated lawnmowers, which is referred to in the TÜV Rheinland 'GS' certificate:

'1.3.3. Risks due to falling or ejected objects and 1.3.7. Prevention of risks related to moving parts

The lawnmower posed a risk of injuries because the casing of the rotating blade under the plane of the circle protruded by 0,6 mm instead of the required 3 mm. This could lead to severe injuries as a result of ejected objects.

1.7.4. Instructions

Information on safe use of the lawnmower regarding mowing on slopes and driving/pulling backwards was missing from the instructions for use.'

3. The Commission's opinion

On 30 July 2010, the Commission wrote to Intratuin who had placed the electric lawnmower Intratuin type 07426 on the EU market, inviting them to communicate their observations regarding the measure taken by the Dutch authorities.

On 30 July 2010, the Commission also wrote to TÜV Rheinland who had issued conformity certificates for the electric lawnmower type YT5124AB which were claimed to be equivalent to the electric lawnmower type 07426 subject to the Dutch measure.

In their reply dated 12 August 2010, TÜV Rheinland confirmed that they had issued the certificates No S 50121261 and AM 50121263 0001 for the electric lawnmower type YT5124AB. They stated that the sample tested by them did not present the non-conformities identified by the Dutch authorities. They further stated that they had no knowledge of the electric lawnmower of the type Intratuin 07426 and could not confirm whether the two references YT5124AB and 07426 referred to the same product.

To date no reply has been received from Intratuin.

The Commission observes that neither Intratuin nor TÜV Rheinland have contested the measure taken by the Dutch authorities. The sales contract between YAT and Intratuin indicates that the electric lawnmowers sold to Intratuin were identified under the reference YT5124AB which is the reference covered by the certificates No S 50121261 and AM 50121263 0001 issued by TÜV Rheinland.

In light of the documentation available, the Commission considers that the Dutch authorities have demonstrated that the machinery subject to the restrictive measure fails to comply with the essential health and safety requirements referred to above. These non-conformities give rise to serious risks for persons using the machinery in question.

Consequently, having followed the required procedure, the Commission is of the opinion that the measure taken by the Dutch authorities is justified.

Done at Brussels, 11 February 2011.

For the Commission

Antonio TAJANI

Vice-President

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.6053 — CVC/Apollo/Brit Insurance)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2011/C 45/02)

On 19 January 2011, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the common market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
 - in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>) under document number 32011M6053. EUR-Lex is the on-line access to the European law.
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IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾**11 February 2011**

(2011/C 45/03)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate
USD US dollar	1,3524	AUD Australian dollar	1,3544
JPY Japanese yen	113,01	CAD Canadian dollar	1,3464
DKK Danish krone	7,4566	HKD Hong Kong dollar	10,5411
GBP Pound sterling	0,84570	NZD New Zealand dollar	1,7869
SEK Swedish krona	8,8022	SGD Singapore dollar	1,7358
CHF Swiss franc	1,3163	KRW South Korean won	1 525,88
ISK Iceland króna		ZAR South African rand	9,8878
NOK Norwegian krone	7,9300	CNY Chinese yuan renminbi	8,9164
BGN Bulgarian lev	1,9558	HRK Croatian kuna	7,4110
CZK Czech koruna	24,250	IDR Indonesian rupiah	12 107,49
HUF Hungarian forint	271,67	MYR Malaysian ringgit	4,1413
LTL Lithuanian litas	3,4528	PHP Philippine peso	59,354
LVL Latvian lats	0,7040	RUB Russian rouble	39,6880
PLN Polish zloty	3,9193	THB Thai baht	41,722
RON Romanian leu	4,2583	BRL Brazilian real	2,2586
TRY Turkish lira	2,1575	MXN Mexican peso	16,3513
		INR Indian rupee	61,7880

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE COORDINATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

DECISION No H6

of 16 December 2010

concerning the application of certain principles regarding the aggregation of periods under Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems

(Text of relevance to the EEA and to the EC/Switzerland Agreement)

(2011/C 45/04)

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE COORDINATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS,

Having regard to Article 72(a) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems ⁽¹⁾, under which the Administrative Commission is responsible for dealing with all administrative questions or questions of interpretation arising from the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems ⁽²⁾,

Acting in accordance with the conditions laid down in the second subparagraph of Article 71(2) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 1(t) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 provides for the definition of 'period of insurance'. It follows from the wording of Article 1(t) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 that periods treated as such are equivalent to periods of insurance and they do not need to be equivalent to periods of contributions.
- (2) Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 provides for the principle of aggregation of periods. This principle should be applied in a uniform way which includes the aggregation of periods which, under national legislation, count only in terms of qualifying for or in terms of increasing the benefit.
- (3) Recital 10 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 provides that the principle of assimilation of certain facts or events should not interfere with the principle of aggregation of periods.
- (4) It is necessary to ensure that, when applying the principle of aggregation of periods as laid down in Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004, periods of insurance

communicated as such by one Member State need to be accepted by the receiving Member State without questioning their quality.

- (5) At the same time, it is necessary to recognise the principle that Member States retain jurisdiction to determine their national conditions for granting social security benefits — provided that these conditions are applied in a non-discriminatory way — and to affirm that this principle remains untouched by the principle of aggregation. A receiving Member State needs, as a first step, to accept all communicated periods as such to overcome potential obstacles when opening a right and then, as a second step, to determine whether special national conditions are fulfilled.
- (6) The definition of 'periods of insurance' remained unchanged in Article 1(t) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 compared to Article 1(r) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71.
- (7) Since this decision aims at providing for legal certainty it should only apply to cases decided after the entry into force of this decision,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. All periods of insurance — be they contributory periods or periods treated as equivalent to insurance periods under national legislation — fulfil the notion of 'periods of insurance' for the purposes of applying Regulations (EC) No 883/2004 and (EC) No 987/2009.
2. All periods for the relevant contingency completed under the legislation of another Member State shall be taken into account solely by applying the principle of aggregation of periods as laid down in Articles 6 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and 12 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009. The principle of aggregation requires that periods communicated by other Member States shall be aggregated without questioning their quality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 166, 30.4.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 284, 30.10.2009, p. 1.

3. Member States retain however — having applied the principle of aggregation under point 2 — the jurisdiction to determine their other conditions for granting social security benefits taking into account Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 — provided that these conditions are applied in a non discriminatory way — and this principle shall not be affected by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004.

4. This decision only applies to cases decided after its entry into force.

5. The attached examples concerning the practical application of points 1, 2 and 3 of this decision are part of this decision.

6. This decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. It shall apply from the first day of the second month following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

The Chair of the Administrative Commission

Keyina MPEYE

ANNEX

EXAMPLES CONCERNING THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF POINTS 1, 2 AND 3 OF THIS DECISION**Example on the application of Sections 1 and 2 of the decision:**

Under the legislation of Member State A, the insured person has 10 years of contributory periods and 2 years of equivalent periods which count under its legislation only for calculation.

As stated under Section 1 of the decision, there are 12 years of periods to be communicated to Member State B.

As stated under Section 2 (and recital 2) of the decision, Member State B needs to take into account these 12 years of periods as such for the purpose of aggregation.

Example on the application of Sections 2 and 3 of the decision:

Under the legislation of Member State A, the insured person has 30 years of contributions linked to the 'actual carrying on of an occupation'. The legislation of Member State A provides, as a national condition for their early retirement pension, that the person concerned must demonstrate at least 35 years of contributions linked to the 'actual carrying on of an occupation'.

Under the legislation of Member State B, the insured person has 2 years of study (communicated as 'equivalent periods for study') and 3 years of contributions linked to the 'actual carrying on of an occupation'.

As stated under Section 2 of the decision, Member State A needs to take into account these 5 years of periods as such for the purpose of aggregation (first step).

As stated under Section 3 of the decision, Member State A then verifies whether the other national conditions under its legislation are fulfilled (here the 'actual carrying on of an occupation') and whether these conditions are applied in a non-discriminatory way (second step).

Since there are only 3 years of contributions linked to the 'actual carrying on of an occupation' in Member State B, the requirement under the legislation of Member State A of having 35 years of 'actual carrying on of an occupation' is not fulfilled. Under the presumption that there is no (indirect) discrimination based on nationality, no early retirement pension needs to be granted under the legislation of Member State A.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE COORDINATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

(2011/C 45/05)

The annual average costs do not take into account the reduction of 20 % provided for in Articles 94(2) and 95(2) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 ⁽¹⁾.

The net monthly average costs have been reduced by 20 %.

AVERAGE COSTS OF BENEFITS IN KIND — 2006

I. Application of Article 94 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to the benefits in kind provided in 2006 to members of the family as referred to in Article 19(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 ⁽²⁾ will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

	Annual	Net monthly
Finland (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 1 167,41	EUR 77,83
— Workers' family members regardless of age		
— Pensioners under 65		
— Pensioners' family members under 65		

II. Application of Article 95 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 2006 under Articles 28 and 28a of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs (**only per capita** from 2002):

	Annual	Net monthly
Finland (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 4 540,17	EUR 302,68
— Pensioners aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 65 and over		

AVERAGE COSTS OF BENEFITS IN KIND — 2007

I. Application of Article 94 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to the benefits in kind provided in 2007 to members of the family as referred to in Article 19(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 ⁽³⁾ will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

	Annual	Net monthly
Cyprus	EUR 741,21	EUR 49,41
Finland (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 1 234,09	EUR 82,27
— Workers' family members regardless of age		
— Pensioners under 65		
— Pensioners' family members under 65		

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 74, 27.3.1972, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 149, 5.7.1971, p. 2.

⁽³⁾ See footnote 2.

II. Application of Article 95 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 2007 under Articles 28 and 28a of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs (**only per capita** from 2002):

	Annual	Net monthly
Cyprus	EUR 991,21	EUR 66,08
Finland (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 4 762,07	EUR 317,47
— Pensioners aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 65 and over		

AVERAGE COSTS OF BENEFITS IN KIND — 2008

I. Application of Article 94 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to the benefits in kind provided in 2008 to members of the family as referred to in Article 19(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

	Annual	Net monthly
Greece	EUR 1 251,34	EUR 83,42
France	EUR 2 278,83	EUR 151,92
Latvia	LVL 334,96	LVL 22,33
The Netherlands (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 1 993,91	EUR 132,93
— Workers' family members regardless of age		
— Pensioners under 65		
— Pensioners' family members under 65		
United Kingdom	GBP 1 841,93	GBP 122,80
Slovakia (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 460,99	EUR 30,73
— Workers' family members under 65		
— Pensioners under 65		
— Pensioners' family members under 65		
Finland (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 1 312,09	EUR 87,47
— Workers' family members regardless of age		
— Pensioners under 65		
— Pensioners' family members under 65		

II. Application of Article 95 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 2008 under Articles 28 and 28a of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs (**only per capita** from 2002):

	Annual	Net monthly
Greece	EUR 2 532,33	EUR 168,82
France	EUR 5 359,52	EUR 357,30

	Annual	Net monthly
Latvia	LVL 398,89	LVL 26,59
The Netherlands (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 9 423,45	EUR 628,23
— Pensioners aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 65 and over		
United Kingdom	GBP 3 598,65	GBP 239,91
Slovakia (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 1 401,46	EUR 93,43
— Workers' family members aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 65 and over		
Finland (<i>per capita</i>)	EUR 4 893,18	EUR 326,21
— Pensioners aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 65 and over		

AVERAGE COSTS OF BENEFITS IN KIND — 2009

I. Application of Article 94 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to the benefits in kind provided in 2009 to members of the family as referred to in Article 19(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

	Annual	Net monthly
Czech Republic (<i>per capita</i>)	CZK 15 355,33	CZK 1 023,69
— Workers' family members under 65		
— Pensioners under 65		
— Pensioners' family members under 65		
Estonia (<i>per capita</i>)	EEK 6 036,14	EEK 402,41
— Workers' family members under 63		EUR 25,72
— Pensioners under 63		
— Pensioners' family members under 63		
Spain	EUR 1 244,87	EUR 82,99
Italy	EUR 2 428,26	EUR 161,88
Hungary (<i>per capita</i>)	HUF 85 093	HUF 5 673
— Workers' family members under 65		
— Pensioners under 65		
— Pensioners' family members under 65		
Austria	EUR 1 828,35	EUR 121,89
Slovenia (<i>per capita</i> — per family member of a worker)	EUR 722,10	EUR 48,14
Liechtenstein	CHF 4 364,82	CHF 290,99

	Annual	Net monthly
Norway	NOK 42 573	NOK 2 838
Switzerland	CHF 2 751,28	CHF 183,42

II. Application of Article 95 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 2009 under Articles 28 and 28a of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs (**only per capita** from 2002):

	Annual	Net monthly
Czech Republic (<i>per capita</i>)	CZK 47 454,23	CZK 3 163,62
— Workers' family members aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 65 and over		
Estonia (<i>per capita</i>)	EEK 15 325,26	EEK 1 021,68
— Workers' family members aged 63 and over		EUR 65,30
— Pensioners aged 63 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 63 and over		
Spain	EUR 3 987,94	EUR 265,86
Italy	EUR 2 884,01	EUR 192,27
Hungary (<i>per capita</i>)	HUF 246 892	HUF 16 459
— Workers' family members aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners aged 65 and over		
— Pensioners' family members aged 65 and over		
Austria	EUR 4 852,14	EUR 323,48
Slovenia	EUR 1 896,16	EUR 126,41
Liechtenstein	CHF 9 272,22	CHF 618,15
Norway	NOK 77 133	NOK 5 142
Switzerland	CHF 7 306,32	CHF 487,09

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production of agricultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001

(2011/C 45/06)

Aid No: XA 160/10

Member State: Slovak Republic

Region/Authority granting the aid: All regions of the Slovak Republic

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Schéma štátnej pomoci na úhradu škôd na poľnohospodárskych plodinách spôsobených nepriaznivou poveternostnou udalosťou, ktorú možno prirovnať k prírodnej katastrofe pre mikro, malé a stredné podniky.

Legal basis:

- § 5 zákona č. 267/2010 Z. z. z 10. júna 2010 o poskytovaní dotácie na kompenzáciu strát spôsobených nepriaznivou poveternostnou udalosťou, ktorú možno prirovnať k prírodnej katastrofe, prírodnou katastrofou alebo mimoriadnou udalosťou,
- Articles 11 and 18 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production of agricultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001,
- Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation), OJ L 214, 9.8.2008,
- zákon č. 231/1999 Z. z. o štátnej pomoci v znení neskorších predpisov.

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company:

The planned volume of funding under the scheme for 2010 is EUR 10 million.

The overall planned volume of funding under the scheme for the period 2010-2013 is EUR 40 million.

Maximum aid intensity:

80 % of the loss, where the grower is insured and has taken out an insurance policy covering at least 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm and where the insurance covers the most statistically significant weather events in the Slovak Republic, as determined by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (*Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav*),

90 % of the loss, where the grower operates in a less favoured area and has taken out an insurance policy covering at least 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm and where the insurance covers the most statistically significant weather events in the Slovak Republic, as determined by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (*Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav*),

40 % of the loss, where the grower is not insured or has taken out an insurance policy covering less than 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm,

45 % of the loss, where the grower operates in a less favoured area, is not insured or has taken out an insurance policy covering less than 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm.

The subsidy may be granted in cases where the loss is at least EUR 2 000.

Date of implementation:

The scheme will enter into force on the date on which the application for exemption is assigned an identification number and the summary information is published on the website of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The scheme is published on the following website: <http://www.land.gov.sk/sk/index.php?navID=161&id=4016>

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: The scheme will expire on 31 December 2013.

Objective of aid:

The objective of the aid is to provide compensation for damage caused to plant primary production as a result of an adverse weather event which can be compared to a natural disaster.

Compensation under this scheme will be granted in particular where damage is caused by:

- (a) frost
- (b) hail
- (c) ice
- (d) rain, moisture or flooding
- (e) drought.

An adverse weather event which can be compared to a natural disaster is one which destroys more than 30 % of the average annual production of a given grower of crops in the preceding three-year period or of a three-year average based on the preceding five-year period, excluding the highest and lowest year for the entire farm.

Sector(s) concerned:

Division A — Agriculture, forestry and fishing

01 — Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities

Name and address of the granting authority:

Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva, životného prostredia a regionálneho rozvoja SR
Dobrovičova 12
812 66 Bratislava
SLOVENSKO/SLOVAKIA
Tel. +421 259266111

Website:

<http://www.land.gov.sk/sk/index.php?navID=161&id=4016>

Other information:

‘Adverse climatic event which can be compared to a natural disaster’ means weather conditions such as frost, hail, ice, rain or drought which destroy more than 30 % of the average of annual production of a given farmer in the preceding three-year period or a three-year average based on the preceding five-year period, excluding the highest and lowest year. The following costs are therefore considered to be eligible:

- (a) up to 80 % of the loss, where the farmer is insured and has taken out an insurance policy covering at least 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm and where the insurance covers the most statistically significant weather events in the Slovak Republic;
- (b) up to 90 % of the loss, where the farmer operates in a less favoured area and has taken out an insurance policy covering at least 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm and where the insurance covers the most statistically significant weather events in the Slovak Republic;
- (c) up to 40 % of the loss, where the farmer is not insured or has taken out an insurance policy covering less than 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm;
- (d) up to 45 % of the loss, where the farmer operates in a less favoured area and is not insured or has taken out an insurance policy covering less than 50 % of his average annual production or income from the production of the relevant agricultural products on his farm.

The loss (reduction in income) is calculated by multiplying the average annual quantity produced in the preceding three-year period (or a three-year average based on the preceding five-year period, excluding the highest and lowest year) by the average selling price obtained and then by deducting the quantity of product produced in the year of the adverse climatic event multiplied by the average selling price obtained during that year. The loss calculated in this way is reduced by any sums deducted under the insurance scheme and by costs not incurred as a result of the adverse weather events. The calculation is carried out at the level of the individual farm.

The aid must meet all the requirements of Articles 2(8) and 11 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production of agricultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001.

Aid No: XA 190/10

Member State: Netherlands

Region: —

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Subsidie Gebiedscoöperatie Oregional

Legal basis: Besluit Milieusubsidies

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 1 million

Maximum aid intensity: For this aid measure, the maximum aid intensity will be 100 % of the eligible costs (see under Objective of aid).

Date of implementation: 15 October 2010 — implementation will start after publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, as referred to in Article 18(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006.

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: The individual aid award will take place in four instalments during the period 2010 to 2013.

Objective of aid:

The main objective of the aid measure is to support small and medium-sized enterprises. The secondary objective is, through the *Gebiedscoöperatie Oregional*, to sell sustainable regional agricultural products in a structurally appropriate manner over the coming three years in the Nijmegen region. The most important sticking point in this regard is balancing regional product supply and demand. The aim of the subsidised project is to remove the bottlenecks so that demand for sustainable regional agricultural products, particularly on the part of care establishments, schools/colleges, company canteens and hotels, restaurants and cafés, can be met in a structurally appropriate manner.

The following articles of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 will be used:

- Article 14 — Aid to encourage the production of quality agricultural products

The following costs are eligible for subsidy:

- 100 % of the costs of market research, product conception and design
 - 100 % of the costs of the introduction of quality assurance schemes
 - 100 % of the costs of training personnel to apply quality assurance schemes
 - 100 % of the costs of the charges levied by recognised certifying bodies for the initial certification of quality assurance and similar systems.
- Article 15 — Aid for technical support in the agricultural sector

The following costs are eligible for subsidy:

- the costs of education and training of farmers and farm workers
- the costs of consultancy services, provided by third parties, which do not constitute a continuous or periodic activity nor relate to the enterprise's usual operating expenditure

- the costs of the organisation of and participation in forums to share knowledge between businesses, competitions, exhibitions and fairs

- the costs of the dissemination of scientific knowledge

- the costs of publications such as catalogues or websites presenting factual information about producers from a given region or producers of a given product, provided that the information and presentation are neutral and that all producers concerned have equal opportunities to be represented in the publication.

Sector(s) concerned: All small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises active in the primary production of products referred to in Annex I to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Name and address of the granting authority:

Ministerie van VROM
Postbus 20951
2500 EZ Den Haag
NEDERLAND

Website:

<http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/besluiten/2010/10/01/verstrekking-subsidie-project-duurzaam-inkopen-van-regionale-producten.html>

Other information:

For granting this subsidy, in addition to Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 use will also be made of Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 (the General Block Exemption Regulation). The subsidy amount of EUR 1 million will largely be used for agricultural enterprises. The remainder will be spent on SMEs.

It is not possible to say in advance which enterprises will receive what amount.

Aid No: XA 191/10

Member State: Italy

Region: Lombardia

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Misure regionali di sostegno degli allevamenti suinicolo colpiti da virus della malattia vescicolare dei suini — indennizzi per mancato reddito per sospensione delle fecondazioni

Legal basis:

DGR n. 581 del 6.10.2010 «Misure regionali di sostegno degli allevamenti suinicolo colpiti da virus della malattia vescicolare dei suini — indennizzi per mancato reddito per sospensione delle fecondazioni»

L.R. 31/2008 (Testo unico Leggi Agricoltura) art. 18

Decreto DG Sanità n. 6929 del 26.6.2007

Decreto DG Sanità n. 9348 del 27.8.2007

Provvedimento DG Sanità prot. H1.2007.0046390 del 29.10.2007 «Malattia vescicolare dei suini — intervento straordinario».

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 2 000 000

Maximum aid intensity: Up to 100 % of the eligible cost, in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006

Date of implementation: From the date of publication of the identification number for the request for exemption on the website of the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: The scheme will expire on 31 December 2011.

Objective of aid: Aid to compensate breeders for loss of income due to the suspension of insemination on account of health authority measures to eradicate swine vesicular disease

Sector(s) concerned: A10406 — Pig breeding

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Lombardia
DG Agricoltura
Via Pola 12/14
20124 Milano MI
ITALIA

Website:

(see Other information below)

Other information: <http://www.regione.lombardia.it>, click on the following links in order: 'Settori e politiche', 'Agricoltura', 'Argomenti', 'Aiuti di stato nel settore agricolo: pubblicazione dei regimi di aiuto'.

Aid No: XA 196/10

Member State: Italy

Region: Basilicata

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Sostegno delle aziende agricole per l'abbattimento di frutteti colpiti da Sharka

Legal basis:

- Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community and in particular Article 16(1).
- legge 1 luglio 1997, n. 206 Norme in favore delle produzioni agricole danneggiate da organismi nocivi,

— decreto del ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali del 28 luglio 2009 recante lotta obbligatoria per il controllo del virus Plum pox virus (PPV), agente della «Vaiolatura delle drupacee» (Sharka),

— delibera di Giunta Regionale n. 1591 del 21 settembre 2010 avente per oggetto:

Misure regionali di sostegno delle aziende frutticole colpite da Vaiolatura delle drupacee (Sharka), causate dall'agente patogeno Plum pox virus. Approvazione criteri e modulistica e contestuale apertura bando. Anno 2010.

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: The total budget of the aid scheme for the entire period from 1 November 2010 to 30 April 2011 amounts to EUR 328 000,00.

Maximum aid intensity:

The aid is calculated exclusively with regard to the market value of the destroyed plants and the income losses due to quarantine obligations and difficulties in replanting. The compensation amounts are fixed as follows:

Compensation EUR per plant	Age of the destroyed plants in years	Maximum aid payment per hectare (EUR)
24,00	1	7 360,00
30,40	2	9 040,00
36,80	3	11 120,00
39,20	4	14 800,00
39,20	5	14 800,00
39,20	6	14 800,00
39,20	7	14 800,00
39,20	8	14 800,00
39,20	9	14 800,00
30,40	10	12 320,00
24,00	11	9 840,00
8,00	12	7 360,00
6,40	over 12	4 800,00

The minimum amount payable per individual beneficiary is fixed at EUR 250,00. No aid will therefore be granted for lower amounts.

Date of implementation: From 1 November 2010

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 30 April 2011

Objective of aid:

The virus (Plum pox virus) responsible for the disease known as Sharka is acknowledged to be a harmful organism requiring quarantine. The ban upon introducing it into the European Union and into Italy and against its spread is laid down by Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 and by Legislative Decree No 214 of 19 August 2005 respectively.

— The gravity of this disease is such that the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy issued the Decree of 28 July 2009 on the mandatory combat to control the Plum pox virus (PPV), which causes Sharka.

The aim of the aid measures is to eradicate infected plants and orchards.

In accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006, in order to save regional fruit production, Italy has decided to continue what was done in 2008 and 2009 and to set up an aid scheme to compensate fruit producers for the costs of eradicating outbreaks. The aid is calculated exclusively with regard to the market value of the destroyed plants and the income losses due to quarantine obligations and difficulties in replanting.

Sector(s) concerned: Apricot, peach and nectarine orchards.

Name and address of the granting authority: Regione Basilicata — Dipartimento agricoltura, sviluppo rurale, economia montana

Website:

<http://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/site/giunta/departement.jsp?dep=100049&area=111544&otype=1058&id=538603>

Other information: In 2010, overall 12 orchards with a total area of 22 hectares were officially certified as being infected by Sharka and immediately uprooted.

Aid No: XA 198/10

Member State: Italy

Region: Sardegna

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid:

Legge regionale 11 marzo 1998, n. 8, articolo 23 (aiuti per i danni alla produzione agricola).

Aiuti a favore delle aziende colpite da tubercolosi bovina nel periodo 1° gennaio 2009-31 dicembre 2010. Spesa 300 000 EUR.

Legal basis:

L.R. 11 marzo 1998, n. 8, articolo 23

Deliberazione della Giunta regionale n. 32/25 del 15 settembre 2010 recante «Aiuti per la perdita di reddito a favore delle aziende colpite da tubercolosi bovina nel periodo 1° gennaio 2009-31 dicembre 2010». Spesa 300 000 EUR.

Deliberazione della Giunta regionale n. 13/26 del 4 marzo 2008 — All. B

Deliberazione della Giunta regionale n. 34/19 del 19 giugno 2008 — All. B

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: The total financial allocation for the aid, covering losses that occurred in 2009 and 2010, amounts to EUR 300 000,00.

Maximum aid intensity:

Aid for loss of income:

100 % of the loss of income calculated according to the procedure detailed in point 2 of the implementing rules laid down in Annex B) to Regional Executive Order (DGR) No 34/19 of 19 June 2008.

Date of implementation: The aid applies with effect from the date of publication of the identification number of the request for exemption on the website of the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration of scheme or individual aid award:

For 2009: until 31 December 2012

For 2010: until 31 December 2013

Objective of aid: Aid for loss of income is granted in accordance with the provisions of Article 10(2)(a)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006.

Sector(s) concerned: Animal production: cattle

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Autonoma della Sardegna
Assessorato dell'agricoltura e riforma agro-pastorale
Via Pessagno 4
09125 Cagliari CA
ITALIA

Website:

deliberazione n. 32/25 del 15 settembre 2009:

http://www.regione.sardegna.it/documenti/1_72_20100920141740.pdf

deliberazione n. 13/26 del 4 marzo 2008:

http://www.regione.sardegna.it/documenti/1_73_20080306104215.pdf

allegato B:

http://www.regione.sardegna.it/documenti/1_73_20080306104251.pdf

deliberazione n. 34/19 del 19 giugno 2008:

http://www.regione.sardegna.it/documenti/1_72_20080619175155.pdf

allegato B:

http://www.regione.sardegna.it/documenti/1_72_20080624123014.pdf

Other information:

The aid is intended to compensate the owners of cattle farms in the region where there have been outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis for losses resulting from the application of the following restrictive measures imposed by the health authorities, in the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010, under the plan to eradicate bovine tuberculosis:

- prohibition to breed (decreased veal calf birth-rates = reduced meat production = loss of income),

- prohibition to restock (this leads to difficulty in rebuilding the herd following compulsory slaughter, so reduced veal calf birth-rates = reduced meat production = loss of income).

The intended beneficiaries of this aid, namely farms practising extensive and semi-extensive livestock farming, do not as a rule incur costs to purchase feed and forage produced outside the farm in that adult animals, both dams and bulls, are fed principally with fodder that grows wild on the farm for which reason the density of livestock units (LU) per hectare is based on the natural fodder available, while calves are fed with their mother's milk and sold once they are weaned.

For this reason production costs not incurred by the farms because of the imposed restrictions indicated above should not be deducted from the amount of the aid.

Any sums received by farmers through voluntary or subsidised insurance schemes, however, will be deducted from the aid granted.

Bianca CARBONI

Direttore Servizio sostegno delle imprese agricole e sviluppo delle competenze

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production of agricultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001

(2011/C 45/07)

Aid No: XA 202/10

Member State: Federal Republic of Germany

Region: Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Richtlinie für die Gewährung von Beihilfen für Impfungen gegen die Blauzungenkrankheit vom Serotyp 8 (BTV 8) bei Rindern, Schafen, Ziegen und sonstigen empfänglichen Tieren (BTV 8-Beihilfe-Richtlinie)

Legal basis: § 7 Absatz 1 Nummer 3 des Hamburgischen Ausführungsgesetzes zum Tierseuchengesetz vom 6. Februar 2007 (HmbGVBl. S. 68), zuletzt geändert am 6. April 2010 (HmbGVBl. S. 260)

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: The estimated annual budget for granting aid under the BTV-8 aid scheme is EUR 7 500

Maximum aid intensity: 100 % of the costs of the vaccine

Date of implementation: From the date of publication of the aid scheme by the European Commission

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2013

Objective of aid: Combating bluetongue (serotype 8) in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006

Sector(s) concerned: Farmers (only small and medium-sized enterprises within the meaning of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation) (OJ L 214, 9.8.2008, p. 3)) who own animals susceptible to bluetongue serotype 8

Name and address of the granting authority:

Behörde für Soziales, Familie, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz
Fachabteilung Lebensmittelsicherheit und Veterinärwesen
Billstraße 80
20539 Hamburg
DEUTSCHLAND

Website:

<http://www.hamburg.de/contentblob/1371778/data/beihilfe-blauzungenkrankheit.pdf>

Other information: —

Aid No: XA 203/10

Member State: Germany

Region: All the Länder

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Maßnahmen zur Verbesserung der genetischen Qualität landwirtschaftlicher Nutztiere

Legal basis: Rahmenplan der Gemeinschaftsaufgabe „Verbesserung der Agrarstruktur und des Küstenschutzes (GAK) für den Zeitraum 2010-2013“

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 20 million

Maximum aid intensity: 60 %

Date of implementation: 1 January 2011

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2013

Objective of aid:

Article 16 — The promotion of the rearing of productive livestock

Eligible costs are those incurred by the farmer in relation to:

— the regular and planned identification of characteristics which can be influenced by breeding as part of the breeding programmes of recognised breeders' associations, or in order to compare the various breeding schemes and crossing programmes offered by such organisations, and the collection, intra-farm analysis (for the purposes of the breeding programme) and evaluation of animal health parameters, husbandry conditions, animal feeding and operational management,

- the processing and provision of data collected for the purposes of offering advice, in particular on improving animal health and increasing animal welfare and environmental protection standards,
- the prevention of pollution, and the production of goods which pose no risk to health,
- the processing of the data collected to establish the genetic quality of the animals in order to enable breeding progress and to maintain genetic diversity.

Sector(s) concerned: The rearing of productive livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep)

Name and address of the granting authority: Agrarministerien der Länder

Website:

http://www.bmelv.de/cln_181/sid_971CCA44FC3F68E872B1F27075851F06/SharedDocs/Downloads/Landwirtschaft/Foerderung/Rahmenplan2010-2013.pdf?blob=publicationFile

Other information: —

Aid No: XA 204/10

Member State: Germany

Region: Thüringen (DEG0)

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Beihilfen der Thüringer Tierseuchenkasse

Legal basis: § 7 Abs. 2 und § 20 Thüringer Ausführungsgesetz zum Tierseuchengesetz (Thüringer Tierseuchengesetz — Thür-TierSG-) in der Fassung vom 30. März 2010 (GVBl. 2010, S. 89) in Verbindung mit der Satzung über Beihilfen der Thüringer Tierseuchenkasse (Beihilfesatzung in der Fassung der 3. Änderungssatzung vom 30. September 2010)

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Total aid of approximately EUR 3,151 million

Maximum aid intensity: Up to 100 %

Date of implementation: From 1 January 2011, but not before the European Commission has issued an ID number

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2013

Objective of aid:

- Compensation for costs incurred by farmers for health checks, tests and other screening measures, for the purchase and use of vaccines and medicinal products in connection with the prevention and eradication of animal diseases within the meaning of Article 10(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006

— Article 10(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006.

- Compensation for losses incurred by farmers due to animal diseases within the meaning of Article 10(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006

— Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006.

Eligible costs: See Annex 1 to the Satzung über Beihilfen der Thüringer Tierseuchenkasse (Beihilfesatzung)

Sector(s) concerned: Livestock farming (NACE sector A104)

Name and address of the granting authority:

Thüringer Tierseuchenkasse
Victor-Goerttler-Straße 4
07745 Jena
DEUTSCHLAND

E-mail: direkt@thueringertierseuchenkasse.de

Website:

Thüringer Tierseuchenkasse aid statutes (Beihilfesatzung):

<http://www.thueringertierseuchenkasse.de/Download/Beihilfesatzung2011.pdf>

Other information: —

V

*(Announcements)*PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION
POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.6115 — Steinhoff/Conforama)****Candidate case for simplified procedure****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2011/C 45/08)

1. On 3 February 2011, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which Steinhoff International Holdings Limited ('Steinhoff', South Africa) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control over the Conforama Group ('Conforama', France), by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for Steinhoff: manufacturing, wholesale and retailing of furniture and household goods, provision of logistics and warehousing services,
 - for Conforama: retailing of furniture, domestic equipment, decoration products, electronic appliances and consumer electronics.
3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the EC Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the EC Merger Regulation ⁽²⁾ it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.
4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.6115 — Steinhoff/Conforama, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
J-70
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32 ('Notice on a simplified procedure').

OTHER ACTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2011/C 45/09)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 ⁽¹⁾. Statements of objection must reach the Commission within six months from the date of this publication.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006**‘NATIVE SHETLAND WOOL’****EC No: UK-PDO-0005-0737-19.01.2009****PGI () PDO (X)****1. Name:**

‘Native Shetland Wool’

2. Member State or third country:

United Kingdom

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff:**3.1. Type of product:**

Class 3.6. Wool

3.2. Description of product to which the name in (1) applies:

‘Native Shetland Wool’ must come from pure-bred Shetland Sheep maintained on organic units on the Shetland Islands to organic standards. The weight of the fleeces varies from 1 to 2 kg. The colour of the fleeces varies from white to a range of natural colours from black through brown to grey.

The sheep are maintained on hills within the defined geographical area and are clipped between July and August. Clipping can be done by mechanical shearing, hand clipped or by ‘rooing’ — plucking with fingers.

Process stages — carried out in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard.

— Scouring — washing the wool is an essential first step in producing a high quality product. The wool is taken through either a short or long wash cycle at carefully regulated temperatures between 20 to 25°C.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12.

- Picking and separation — the fibres of the wool are then picked and separated to divide the fine fibre from the coarse and to get rid of any remaining vegetable matter such as hay and seeds.
- Carding — the carder is the heart of the fibre processing mill. It takes a random mass of fibre and transforms it into a continuous web, either to form a 'batt' for felt-making, or draw together to form a 'roving'.
- Spinning — there are two parts to a spinning system: the drawing and twisting of rovings to produce yarns of differing weights and plies. Yarns are wound on to cones, from which they can be balled or hanked.
- Felt-making — the felter produces felt sheets or 'batts' from loose fibres. The lid of the machine floats to allow different thicknesses of fibres to be used, thus producing sheets of felt (batts) by using pressure and vibration on wet fibres to entangle them.

The products covered includes yarns which are balled or hanked, and felt sheets or 'batts'.

The wool has unique wool characteristics. It is typified by its softness, strength and springiness and insulating qualities. The 'staple' profile exhibits long 'guard hairs' of several inches long and very fine lower hairs. The wool has an average staple length of 5–10 cm and the diameter of its wool fibre averages 29,9 microns.

Description	Average staple length	Average micron count (diameter of wool fibre)	Handle	Colour	Weight
Shetland White	5–10 cm	29,9	soft & silky	white	1–2 kgs
Shetland Moorit	5–10 cm	29,9	soft & silky	brown	1–2 kgs
Shetland Fawn	5–10 cm	29,9	soft & silky	fawn	1–2 kgs
Shetland Grey	5–10 cm	29,9	soft & silky	grey	1–2 kgs
Shetland Black	5–10 cm	29,9	soft & silky	black	1–2 kgs

It has unique 'handle', which is the combined effect of its softness, strength and springiness. This springiness is created by the distinct Shetland crimp, folded ridge shape, (which is not as dense, for example, as that for merino wool).

The basic natural colours in Shetland wool are white, moorit (red-brown), fawn, dark grey and Shetland black (dark brown). Shetland sheep often have distinctive natural body markings. This can give many shades of natural colour within one fleece. Shetland wool is among the softest available. It can be spun and plied into various thickness of yarn, for weaving and knitting.

This application defines wool produced on the Shetland Islands from the native Shetland breed which is reflected in the name seeking protection. The applicants recognise that organic wool from the Shetland breed is produced outside the designated area.

3.3. Raw materials:

'Native Shetland Wool' must come from pure-bred Shetland sheep maintained on organic units and to organic standards on the Shetland Islands. Processed wool must be certified under the Global Organic Textile Standard.

3.4. Feed (for products of animal origin only):

N/A

3.5. Specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographical area:

'Native Shetland Wool' must come from pure bred Shetland sheep raised to organic standards on the Shetland Islands. The processes leading up to the production of the yarn must also be carried out on the islands. These include:

- scouring

- picking
- separating
- carding
- spinning
- felt-making.

Once the yarn has been produced, it may then be sold on or off the islands for further processing by commercial processors or for use at home.

3.6. *Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc.:*

N/A

3.7. *Specific rules concerning labelling:*

In addition to the EU symbol for protected designations of origin, any other symbol or logo, including those derived from a private certification scheme, for which the product qualifies may also be used on the labelling of 'Native Shetland Wool', provided consumers are not misled.

While the name 'Native Shetland Wool' shall be protected in accordance with the Union rules in force, the use of terms such as 'Shetland wool' and 'Shetland organic wool' designating product of the breed, but not originating from the geographical area, shall not conflict with the terms of the registration of 'Native Shetland Wool' PDO.

4. **Concise definition of the geographical area:**

The Shetland Islands

5. **Link with the geographical area:**

5.1. *Specificity of the geographical area:*

Native organic Shetland sheep are only to be found on organic units in Shetland. Shetland's climate is very harsh and the soil type, in general, very poor. In this context, Shetland sheep have evolved to cope with a special set of circumstances over at least 5 000 years. This particular climate and environment has resulted in a breed of sheep which live on unimproved hills and islands. They forage on the heather moorland of the interior, the maritime pastures of the coastal fringe and the many small isles around the coast.

5.2. *Specificity of the product:*

The unique native sheep's wool is typified by its softness, strength and springiness and insulating qualities. It has a staple combining long guardhairs (for running off the very high rainfall) and a very fine inner hair, which insulates the animals against the high wind chill. Very few yarns produced from 100 % wool fibres contain the distinctive characteristics that create this soft handle in such a light-weight yarn. The special crimp in the raw fibres of the wool, create a distinctive springiness in the yarn.

This special fibre has been sought after in many walks of life. The fibre has great insulation qualities and has been used on many famous polar and Himalayan expeditions for warmth retaining qualities.

5.3. *Causal link between the geographical area and a specific quality, the reputation or other characteristic of the product:*

Shetland sheep have been valued for their very fine wool for a long time. They are the foundation of an important textile industry on the Shetland Islands. The wool is comparable in fineness to that of the Merinos and its worth has long been recognised. The quality and unique characteristics of 'Native Shetland Wool' come from the natural development of the native breed to meet geographic conditions prevailing on the Shetland Islands.

Fleece, bone and sheepskins were used as raw material for making many objects needed for survival. Bone debris and small tools found on sites from the Iron Age to the 13th century confirm that sheep were farmed continuously on the Shetland. Settlers from Norway brought their own breed of sheep in the ninth century, to provide milk, meat and offal for food. Isolated together on the Shetland, all the sheep evolved into a recognised island breed, the Shetland sheep, renowned as the source of Shetland wool. In 1790 the unusual qualities of Shetland wool were 'discovered' by the rest of Scotland when samples were taken back to Edinburgh and received with acclaim. The Society of British Wool was formed at this time to improve the standards of sheep breeding and wool production.

Today, the many natural colours of Shetland fleece and yarns conform to current market demand for ecological yarns without the use of chemical dyes. Shetland wool currently has a very stable position in many export markets because of its unique qualities.

Reference to publication of the specification:

(Article 5(7) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/industry/regional/foodname/products/documents/shetland-organic-wool.pdf>

Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2011/C 45/10)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 ⁽¹⁾. Statements of objection must reach the Commission within six months from the date of this publication.

SUMMARY

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006

‘ŠEBRELJSKI ŽELODEC’

EC No: SI-PGI-0005-0415-29.10.2004

PDO () PGI (X)

This summary sets out the main elements of the product specification for information purposes.

1. Responsible department in the Member State:

Name: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia
Address: Dunajska 22
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SLOVENIJA
Tel. +386 14789109
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2. Applicant group:

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Address: Šebrelje 53
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SLOVENIJA
Tel. +386 53744276
Fax +386 53720181
E-mail: —
Composition: Producers/processors (X) Other ()

3. Type of product:

Group 1.2: Meat products (cooked, salted, smoked, etc.)

4. Specification:

(summary of requirements under Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006)

4.1. Name:

‘Šebreljski želodec’

4.2. Description:

‘Šebreljski želodec’ (plural: ‘želodci’) is a preserved sausage made from high-quality pork meat and hard bacon in a ratio of between 75:25 and 80:20. It is characterised by the high levels of meat content and low proportion of bacon. ‘Šebreljski želodec’ is flat and weighs 0,8 to 2 kg, and its shape depends on whether the casing used is a bladder, a rectum or an artificial casing. The surface is smooth and dry, with no residual fat.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12.

The cross-section is characterised by an even distribution of meat and bacon. Slices have the red colour of the matured meat and the white colour of bacon. The pieces of meat and bacon are well combined and there are no sinews or gristle. The product has the characteristic harmonious taste of matured meat and bacon, with undertones of seasoning. The aroma is characteristic and harmonious with notes of spices and smoke.

4.3. *Geographical area:*

The geographical area lies to the west of the Goriška statistical region and includes the Idrijsko-Cerkljansko area. The boundary line incorporates the settlement of Stopnik, runs along the Idrijca river valley, along the edge of the Šentviška Planota plateau, through the settlement of Bukovo, along the edge of the Cerkljansko hills up to and including Zakojca, through Porezen, along the edge of the Davča valley and along the Blegoš foothills towards Podjelovo Brdo, up to and including Jazne; from there it heads towards Govejk, taking in the settlements of Govejk, Zavratac, Potok and Godovič, then it runs through Javornik, past Kanji Dol, along the edge of Gore, through Trnovski Gozd forest towards Oblakov Vrh, which forms part of the area, and back to Stopnik.

4.4. *Proof of origin:*

Each producer must keep documents showing the quantity and quality of raw materials and the quantity of 'želodci' produced and sold. The records must guarantee the traceability of each batch separately. Batches must be marked with a serial number, the date of production and the number and quantity of 'želodci' in the batch.

4.5. *Method of production:*

In order to produce 'Šebreljski želodec', pork from pigs weighing at least 115 kg live or with a carcass weight of 85 kg is used.

Meat from the thigh, shoulder, neck and back is used to fill the 'Šebreljski želodec'. The meat is minced into 8-10 mm pieces and the hard bacon from the thigh, shoulder and back is cut into pieces of 6 to 8 mm. The minced meat and bacon are mixed together in a ratio of between 75:25 and 80:20. Approximately 1 % of garlic, 2,4-2,5 % of salt and 0,1-0,35 % of pepper are added. Cooking sea salt is used, plus sugar equivalent to 0,5 % of filling weight. The use of nitrates, nitrites and other additives is not permitted. The filling is mixed and stuffed into casings, such as pigs' bladders, beef rectums or artificial casings. The weight of a freshly filled 'želodec' is 1,3 to 3 kg. The casings are sewn or tied shut. The 'želodci' are then drained and pressed for up to 10 days. The 'želodci' are cold-smoked for up to two days. The drying/maturation process takes place in natural conditions or in an air-conditioned environment. The drying temperature varies between 10 °C and 15 °C. In the coldest months, the temperature may also drop below 10 °C in the case of natural drying. Lower temperatures slow down the drying process. The relative humidity must be between 60 % and 80 % in both cases.

The natural drying process takes from three to five months in traditional drying compartments. Drying time in an air-conditioned environment is at least 100 days. Drying in an air-conditioned environment involves natural air circulation (occasional opening of windows), and the humidity and temperature are controlled. The weight of a mature 'želodec' is between 0,8 and 2 kg.

4.6. *Link:*

The link between the geographical area and 'Šebreljski želodec' is based mainly on the reputation gained thanks to suitable climatic conditions (climatic conditions of drying and maturation), the traditional technology for the production of 'želodci' and high-quality raw materials.

‘Šebreljski želodec’ has been produced for many years in the Idrijsko-Cerkljansko area, but there are few written records to prove this. A survey of the older population was carried out in the geographical area, which confirmed the long tradition of producing ‘Šebreljski želodec’ in the Idrijsko-Cerkljansko area. It was found that, since olden times, only high-quality ingredients had been used to make ‘želodec’, that the product had always been matured in the traditional manner and that its characteristic shape, taste and aroma formed part of its reputation.

The Idrijsko and Cerkljansko hills lie in the western part of Slovenia in the pre-Alpine area where the Alpine and Dinaric areas meet. They belong to the regions with a transitional type of climate, since they are influenced by both the rather warm climate of the Adriatic Sea and the rather cool climate of the Alps.

In the area of the Idrijsko and Cerkljansko hills the combination of Mediterranean and Alpine influences has created a special climate.

The Idrija hills are bound to the south-west by the high plateau of the Trnovski Gozd forest, a natural barrier that mitigates the effects of the climate of the Vipava valley, while the influence of the Adriatic Sea is felt, mainly in the Cerkljansko area, thanks to the opening to the Idrijca river valley.

The area is subject to a typically harsh, central European mountain climate: long, cold winters with low average temperature and high precipitation, and a short and not very warm summer — a continental climate.

Due to the faint influence of the Adriatic Sea, the valley areas of Cerkljansko experience milder winters and less snow than the rest of the Idrijsko-Cerkljansko area. The geographical area is characterised by constant airflow caused by the temperature difference between sunny and shaded areas, which results in valley air flows with an adequate level of humidity.

All these natural conditions in the maturation and drying phase influence the specific characteristics of ‘Šebreljski želodec’.

4.7. *Inspection body:*

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Address: Linhartova 49a
SI-1000 Ljubljana
SLOVENIJA
Tel. +386 14757670
Fax +386 14747602
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4.8. *Labelling:*

‘Šebreljski želodci’ must be marked with the name ‘Šebreljski želodec’, the statement ‘protected geographical indication’ or the corresponding abbreviation and the appropriate Community mark.

‘Šebreljski želodci’ may also be marked with the logo for ‘Šebreljski želodec’ and the national quality symbol, and the certification body may also be mentioned.

If ‘Šebreljski želodci’ are packaged outside the geographical area, the labelling must also contain the exact name and location of the producer, the batch number, the packager and the place of packaging in order to prove traceability.

Publication of an application pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2011/C 45/11)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 ⁽¹⁾. Statements of objection must reach the Commission within six months from the date of this publication.

SUMMARY

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006

‘ZGORNJESAVINJSKI ŽELODEC’

EC No: SI-PGI-0005-0416-29.10.2004

PDO () PGI (X)

This summary sets out the main elements of the product specification for information purposes.

1. Responsible department in the Member State:

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2. Applicant group:

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SI-3332 Rečica ob Savinji
SLOVENIJA
Tel. +386 38390910
Fax —
E-mail: —
Composition: producers/processors (X) other ()

3. Type of product:

Group 1.2. Meat products (cooked, salted, smoked, etc.)

4. Specification:

(summary of requirements under Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006)

4.1. Name:

‘Zgornjesavinjski želodec’

4.2. Description:

‘Zgornjesavinjski’ želodec (plural: ‘želodci’) is an air-dried/matured meat product made from high-quality pork meat (thigh, shoulder) and firm back bacon. Salt and seasoning are added to the meat filling, which is then stuffed into natural casings such as pig stomachs, pig bladders, beef intestines (the blind gut) or artificial permeable casings.

The product takes its name from the traditional practice of stuffing the filling into natural casings, mainly pig stomachs.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12.

'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' consists of meat and bacon in a ratio of between 85:15 and 80:20. Garlic, salt, pepper and sugar are also added. The use of nitrites, nitrates and other additives is not permitted. The salt content is less than 7 %.

The dried 'želodec' is round or rectangular in shape. It weighs at least 0,7 kg and, due to pressing, has a characteristic flat shape and a thickness of 3-5 cm. The casing is smooth, fits tightly to the filling and is lightly covered with a characteristic greyish brown mould of the genus *Penicillium*.

The flat shape means that slices of 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' are thin and long. A distinguishing feature of 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' is its pronounced aroma, which is complemented by the added spices that do not mask the basic aromas of the matured meat and the bacon.

The texture is gently firm and suitable for cutting into slices. Slices have a characteristic and recognisable 'mosaic' made up of the pinkish-red meat part and the particularly visible pieces of bacon, which are white to pale white in colour. In the mouth, slices are smooth and quickly disintegrate.

4.3. Geographical area:

The protected geographical designation is applied only to 'želodec' produced in the area of the Upper Savinja valley. To the north, the border of this area runs along the Olševa ridge, then along the ridge of the Smrekovško Pogorje hills. To the south, it passes via the summits of Dobrovlje and Menina, which separate the Upper Savinja valley from the Lower Savinja and Tuhinjska valleys. To the west, the border runs through the Črnivec pass and on to Krajnska Reber, the Velika Planina plateau and via the Presedlaj pass to Ojstrica. From there it can be traced along the top ridge of Grintavec to Skuta and then north to the Mrzla Gora mountains. Here it meets the Slovene-Austrian state border, passing north to Pavličevo Sedlo, then turning east and back to Olševa.

4.4. Proof of origin:

The 'želodec' must be produced and matured in the geographical area. In order to ensure traceability, 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' production plants must be registered in the geographical area.

Producers must keep records proving that they abide by the requirements of the specification for 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec'. They must keep details of the raw materials bought and used, the production process and the quantity and weight of 'želodci' produced and sold. Each 'želodec' is identified by a label indicating the batch and the date of production. Each batch is marked with a serial number and the quantity and weight of 'želodci' in the batch.

4.5. Method of production:

'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' is produced using high-quality pork (thigh and shoulder) and firm back bacon from meaty breeds of pig and their cross-breeds. The cooled meat is minced into 8-10 mm pieces and the cooled bacon is cut into pieces 6 to 8 mm in size. The meat to bacon ratio is between 85:15 and 80:20. Garlic is added to the mixture (the garlic cloves represent 1-2 % and the garlic liquor 4-6 % by weight of the filling), together with salt, pepper and sugar. Mixing is done by machine or by hand. The filling is stuffed into natural casings (stomachs, bladders, beef intestines) or artificial casings which are steam-permeable. The casings are closed with a wooden peg or by stitching. The mass of a freshly-filled 'želodec' is between 1,3 and 2,5 kg. The 'želodci' are then drained for two days and pressed between boards for four to seven days while air circulates gently around them.

Drying and maturation takes place in natural conditions in suitable premises (drying compartments of huts) at a temperature between 12 °C and 18 °C and a relative humidity between 60 % and 80 %. In poor weather conditions, the humidity and temperature are controlled through suitable airing or by a partially controlled environment.

The 'želodci' are dried on shelves. At the start of the drying process, the 'želodci' are turned two to seven times a week. The drying/maturation process lasts three to five months, depending on the weight of the 'želodci'. During drying, a characteristic greyish-brown mould of the genus *Penicillium* develops on the casing. The mould is of natural origin and therefore has no disagreeable odour; it gives 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' its characteristic organoleptic properties and, at the same time, prevents the product from drying out too fast.

The 'želodci' lose at least 36 % of their weight during drying. The final weight of the product is at least 0,7 kg.

Once drying/maturation is complete, sensory testing is carried out to check the quality of the products. The 'želodci' may be vacuum-packed whole or in halves. Slices are vacuum-packed or packed in a modified atmosphere. The products are stored in a dark, cool place at a temperature not exceeding + 8 °C.

4.6. Link:

The protection of 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' is based on its renown. The chief characteristic of the 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' is the traditional production method. The dried meat products generally produced in other areas of Slovenia are mainly home-made sausages and salami. But in this mountain-encircled region, the recipe for authentic 'želodec' has been passed on from generation to generation for centuries. 'Želodec' production first developed in the high, mountainous part of the Upper Savinja valley. The first records of the production of 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec' probably date back to the beginning of the 19th century. The ethnographer Jože Lekše wrote in his manuscripts about the ceremonial importance of 'želodec', which was served on special occasions, such as weddings, funeral repasts or family celebrations. In the 20th century 'želodec' started to be produced in the lower-lying and more populated parts of the valley as well, which is proven, among other things, by a handwritten recipe for the production of 'želodec' dating from about 1930 from the Logar farm in Logarska valley.

Aleksander Videčnik, an author who has researched folk customs and life in the Upper Savinja valley, relates that, during a visit to King Alexander between the wars, the British King George VI is said to have visited the Logarska valley (part of the Upper Savinja), where the two of them tried 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec'. He is said to have liked it so much that he subsequently had it sent to him at the British Court.

Over the years the product has become known as an exclusive speciality of this area, since even today it is still one of the main dishes at major events and weddings and on feast days, and people take it to church at Easter to have it blessed.

The characteristics of the Alpine and pre-Alpine climate are combined in the geographical area of the Upper Savinja valley. The predominant type of climate depends mainly on the altitude. The higher areas have an Alpine climate with an average temperature of less than - 3 °C in the coldest month, whereas the lower-lying areas have a temperate pre-Alpine climate. Fresh mountain air comes into the valley of the Savinja and Dreta from the surrounding mountain plateaus, which means that summers are not unpleasantly hot. Autumn is cool, as is spring, while there is usually a long, cold winter. Within these general climatic conditions, local microclimates are also found (e.g. sunny or shady areas or closed valleys).

The main particularity of this area is that the wide temperature differences between sunny and shady areas and highland and lowland areas create local air currents which allow the 'želodec' to dry by natural air circulation.

The Upper Savinja valley has a unique microclimate, numerous spruce forests, high surrounding hills and an exceptionally high volume of water in its rivers and streams. As well as the microclimate of the area as a whole, the microclimate of the areas where drying takes place is also exceptionally important for the drying and maturation of 'želodec'.

Sprucewood, stone and brick are the main materials used in building the drying compartments of the huts in which 'želodci' are dried.

These comprehensive specific conditions have a significant impact on the drying and maturation of 'želodci' and on their taste and aroma.

In addition to the favourable natural conditions, the quality of 'želodci' is due in part to people, who have developed a specific technique for preparing, shaping and drying 'želodci' in the production area. 'Želodci' are still produced using procedures that respect tradition, and when technological improvements are introduced, the typical shape and sensory properties of the 'želodci' do not change. The environment, the smells of spruce forests, together with the climate and the human factor, which includes experience and specific technical and practical knowledge, are essential to the preparation of 'Zgornjesavinjski želodci'.

4.7. Inspection body:

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4.8. Labelling:

Certified products are labelled with the name 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec', the statement 'protected geographical indication', the corresponding Community symbol, the national quality symbol and the logo for 'Zgornjesavinjski želodec'. The use of the logo is compulsory for all forms of 'želodec' that are marketed.

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

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