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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

on EAGF expenditure

Early warning system

No 5/2007

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1. INTRODUCTION

For the period 16 October 2006 to 31 March 2007, the budget's actual implementation level compared to the expenditure profile pointed out by the indicator, established on the basis of the dispositions of Article 20 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005¹ is presented in the Annex.

2. ASSIGNED REVENUE

On the basis of the dispositions of Article 34 of the new CAP Financing Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005, the receipts originating from financial corrections under conformity clearance decisions, from irregularities and from the milk levy are designated as revenue assigned to the financing of EAGF expenditure. At the time of establishment of the 2007 budget, an estimation of this revenue was made and this estimation was taken into consideration when the Budgetary Authority adopted the 2007 budget's appropriations. Specifically:

- the receipts from the milk levy were estimated at EUR 349.0 million and they were taken into consideration by reducing the appropriations requested for the milk and milk products sector for which the Budgetary Authority granted an amount of EUR 587.0 million;
- the receipts from the conformity clearance claw-backs and from irregularities were estimated at EUR 568.0 million and EUR 70.0 million correspondingly. The total amount of EUR 638.0 million was taken into consideration by reducing the appropriations requested for the single payment scheme for which the Budgetary Authority granted an amount of EUR 27 918.0 million.

The annexed table presents the implementation of the assigned revenue account for which an amount of EUR 734.0 million was collected as of 31 March 2007. Specifically:

- from the milk levy an amount of approximately EUR 351.2 million was collected as compared to the initial estimate of EUR 349.0 million,
- the conformity clearance claw-backs amounted to approximately EUR 332.2 million with additional amounts expected by the end of the budget year, and
- the receipts from irregularities amounted to approximately EUR 50.6 million with additional amounts also expected by the end of the budget year.

According to the pertinent rules, this revenue can be used, partly or wholly, to cover the financing of EAGF expenditure if the budget appropriations granted by the Budgetary Authority are not sufficient to finance the expenditure incurred by the Member States. In the case where part of this revenue is not used, then, this part will be automatically carried over into the following budget year.

¹ OJ L 209, 11.8.2005, p. 1. Regulation last amended by Regulation (EC) No 320/2006 (JO L 58, 28.2.2006, p. 42).

3. SUGAR RESTRUCTURING FUND

The temporary restructuring amounts in the sugar sector are treated as assigned revenue intended to finance the sugar restructuring aid and other aids foreseen in the restructuring fund. For the marketing year 2006/07 these amounts relate to the sugar, insulin syrup and isoglucose quantitative quotas held by operators and they are to be paid by the Member States into the Fund in 2 instalments, the deadlines of which are 31 March and 30 November 2007 respectively. As of the end of March, Member States had paid the first instalment of the restructuring amounts due amounting to EUR 1 287.2 million.

4. COMMENTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2007 BUDGET

A brief commentary on the reasons for which the most significant divergences between the actual and the expected level of implementation for certain sectors of the 2007 budget is presented hereafter:

4.1. Monetary factors

The expenditure incurred in the aforementioned period takes account of the movement in the US\$/EUR rate. For a large part of export refunds for agricultural products, particularly for cereals and sugar, and of some internal aids such as aid for cotton, expenditure is influenced by the trend in this parity rate.

In accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005, the budget adopted by the Budgetary Authority was drawn up on the basis of the average parity rate for July–September 2006 of EUR 1 = \$ 1.27. It should be noted that for the period 1 August 2006 to 31 March 2007 the average parity rate was approximately equal to EUR 1 = \$ 1.29, i.e. 1.6% above the rate used for the establishment of the 2007 budget.

4.2. Market factors

4.2.1. Cereals (– EUR 220.0 million)

The extremely favourable internal and external conditions in the cereals market and the resulting higher internal market prices are expected to lead to lower purchases and higher sales of cereals in public storage as well as to lower expenditure for export refunds, thus, leading to an under-implementation of this sector's budget appropriations which is expected to last to the end of the budget year.

4.2.2. Sugar (+ EUR 152.4 million)

The current over-implementation of the budget's appropriations, when compared to the level of the indicator, is due to the increased quantities of exported sugar involving both free market and public storage sugar.

4.2.3. Wine (+ EUR 52.2 million)

The current over-implementation of the budget's appropriations, when compared to the level of the indicator, is due to the following three reasons:

- the Member States' current payments arising from the crisis distillations of the marketing year 2005/2006 which were carried out late in 2006 but which were not paid for in the course of that budget year, and
- the acceleration in the rhythm of payments for the permanent abandonment and from the restructuring and re-conversion measures.

This over-implementation is expected to be temporary.

4.2.4. *Milk and milk products (+ EUR 81.7 million)*

The budget's appropriations, when compared to the level of the indicator, were over-implemented as of 31 March 2007. At this point in time, the Commission expects this over-execution to be temporary.

It should be noted that this over-execution of appropriations, when compared to the level of the indicator, is due to technical reasons since, starting with the 2007 budget, the revenue from the milk levy, estimated at EUR 349.0 million, is separately treated as revenue assigned to the EAGF. The 2007 budgetary appropriations requested and granted by the Budgetary Authority for this sector did not include this revenue and, therefore, the indicator is applied at appropriations which were lower by this amount. This is the reason for which the current implementation of the budget points to an over-execution.

If the revenue from the milk levy initially forecasted to be assigned to the milk sector is taken into consideration, then, an under-execution of – EUR 83.2 million would arise for this sector.

4.3. **Direct aids (– EUR 551.8 million)**

The current under-execution of – 1.5% by comparison to the level of this indicator involves both decoupled and other direct aids. Member States can make payments for these schemes up to 30 June 2007. Therefore, the Commission considers that, at this point in time, this under-execution could be temporary.

If the revenue from the conformity clearance and from irregularities initially forecasted to be assigned to the single payment scheme is taken into consideration, then, an under-execution of – EUR 1 135.9 million would arise for the direct aids chapter.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The uptake of the budget's appropriations, for the period 16 October 2006 to 31 March 2007, concerning the Member States' expenditure for market measures and for direct aids amounted to EUR 34 841.4 million, i.e. it involved an overall under-execution of these appropriations by approximately – EUR 600.9 million.

Should this global under-execution of the budget's appropriations for market measures and direct aids continues to the end of the budget year, then, the agricultural budget would not need the collected assigned revenue which, as of 31 March 2007, amounted to EUR 734.0 million. The unused amounts of this revenue will, then, be carried over automatically into the 2008 budget year.

ANNEX

BUDGET YEAR 2007 (*)

PROVISIONAL CONSUMPTION OF THE APPROPRIATIONS AGAINST ORIGINAL APPROPRIATIONS of EAGF

Situation to the 31/03/2007
in EUR million

	Original appropriations Budget (*)	Consumption from November to March	Utilisation	Consumption profile (**) as at March		Gap between implementation and indicator	
	EUR mio	EUR mio	%	%	EUR mio	%	EUR mio
	A	B	C= (B*100)/A	D	E= (D*A)/100	F=C-D	G=B-E
Expenditure (A)							
05 01 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AREA 05010401, 05010406 and 05010407: Monitoring/prevention and pilot projects	8,5	1,2	13,9 %	19,7 %	1,7	-5,8 %	-0,5
Total 05 01 Administrative expenditure of policy area Agriculture	8,5	1,2	13,9 %	19,7 %	1,7	-5,8 %	-0,5
05 02 INTERVENTIONS IN AGRICULTURAL MARKETS							
05 02 0 Cereals	516,0	-2,7	-0,5 %	42,1 %	217,3	-42,6 %	-220,0
05 02 0 Rice	-2,0	1,1	-56,6 %	106,8 %	-2,1	-163,4 %	3,3
05 02 0 Refunds on non-Annex 1 products	299,0	107,2	35,9 %	48,5 %	145,0	-12,6 %	-37,8
05 02 0 Food programmes	278,0	123,2	44,3 %	31,4 %	87,3	12,9 %	35,9
05 02 0 Sugar	323,0	279,8	86,6 %	39,4 %	127,4	47,2 %	152,4
05 02 0 Olive oil	50,0	43,6	87,3 %	84,5 %	42,3	2,8 %	1,4
05 02 0 Textile plants	22,0	6,2	28,0 %	31,4 %	6,9	-3,4 %	-0,8
05 02 0 Fruit and vegetables	1.319,8	557,3	42,2 %	46,3 %	611,4	-4,1 %	-54,1
05 02 0 Products of the wine-growing sector	1.487,0	730,9	49,2 %	45,6 %	678,7	3,5 %	52,2
05 02 1 Promotion	45,3	16,8	37,2 %	38,4 %	17,4	-1,3 %	-0,6
05 02 1 Other plant products/measures	379,0	161,4	42,6 %	42,8 %	162,3	-0,2 %	-0,9
05 02 1 Milk and milk products (estimation of 349 Mio EUR credits coming from revenue)***	587,0	359,0	61,2 %	47,2 %	277,3	13,9 %	81,7
05 02 1 Beef and veal	117,0	51,6	44,1 %	53,0 %	62,0	-8,9 %	-10,4
05 02 1 Sheepmeat and goatmeat	p.m.	0,0					
05 02 1 Pigmeat, eggs and poultry, bee-keeping and other animal products	194,1	98,2	50,6 %	58,7 %	114,0	-8,2 %	-15,8
Total 05 02 Interventions in agricultural markets (excluding 05 02 16)	5.615,2	2.533,8	45,1 %	45,4 %	2.547,2	-0,2 %	-13,4
05 03 DIRECT AIDS							
05 03 0 Decoupled direct aids (estimation of 638 Mio EUR credits coming from revenue)***	30.196,0	27.350,9	90,6 %	91,6 %	27.648,1	-1,0 %	-297,2
05 03 0 Other direct aids	6.214,5	4.663,8	75,0 %	78,6 %	4.884,6	-3,6 %	-220,8
05 03 0 Additional amounts of aid	468,0	85,8	18,3 %	22,9 %	107,2	-4,6 %	-21,4
05 03 0 Ancillary direct aids (outstanding balances, small producers, agrimonetary aids, etc.)	0,0	-12,4	0,0 %				
Total 05 03 Direct aids	36.878,5	32.088,1	87,0 %	88,5 %	32.639,9	-1,5 %	-551,8
OTHER EXPENDITURE							
05 04 Rural development (050401 and 05040302)	p.m.	-16,1					
05 07 AUDIT OF AGRICULTURAL EXPENDITURE	-172,0	4,5	-2,6 %	-4,4 %	7,6	1,8 %	-3,1
Accounting clearance of previous years' accounts (05070106 and 05070108)	-178,0	0,2	-0,1 %	-3,4 %	6,1	3,3 %	-5,9
(3) Conformity clearance of previous years' accounts (05070107 and 05070109)	p.m.	0,0					
Audit of agricultural expenditure, other lines (05070101, 05070102, 05070105 and 050702)	6,0	4,3	70,9 %	25,0 %	1,5	45,9 %	2,8
05 08 (1) POLICY STRATEGY AND COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AREA	41,2	16,4	39,9 %	48,3 %	19,9	-8,4 %	-3,5
11 02 (2) (4) FISHERIES MARKETS	30,5	0,1	0,3 %	0,0 %	0,0	0,3 %	0,1
17 01 (1) (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE OF POLICY AREA HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION 17010401, 17010404 and 17010405: Plant health meas. - Pilot study - Feed and food safety	1,3	0,4	32,2 %	0,0 %	0,0	32,2 %	0,4
17 03 (1) (2) PUBLIC HEALTH 17 03 02 Community tobacco fund - direct payments by the EU	13,5	0,0	0,0 %	0,0 %	0,0	0,0 %	0,0
17 04 (1) (2) FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL HEALTH, ANIMAL WELFARE AND PLANT HEALTH 170401 to 170407 Veterinary, animal welfare, public health, plant health, feed and food and other measures	295,0	213,0	72,2 %	76,6 %	226,1	-4,4 %	-13,1
Total other expenditure	209,5	218,3	104,2 %	121,0 %	253,6	-16,9 %	-35,3
Total Expenditure (excluding 05 02 16)	42.711,7	34.841,4	81,6 %	83,0 %	35.442,3	-1,4 %	-600,9
Revenue (B)							
6 7 0 1 Conformity clearance of previous years'accounts - EAGF (estimation : 568 Mio EUR)	p.m.	332,2					
6 7 0 2 Irregularities - EAGF (estimation : 70 Mio EUR)	p.m.	50,6					
6 7 0 3 Superlevy from milk producers (estimation : 349 Mio EUR)	p.m.	351,2					
Total Revenue (excluding 6 8 0 1 and 6 8 0 2)	p.m.	733,9					
Expenditure and revenue (A-B)							
Total Expenditure and revenue (excluding 05 02 16, 6 8 0 1 and 6 8 0 2)	42.711,7	34.107,5	79,9 %	83,0 %	35.442,3	-3,1 %	-1.334,9
Sugar Restructuring Fund							
05 02 1 Sugar Restructuring Fund (estimation of 757 Mio EUR credits coming from revenue)***	p.m.	0,0					
6 8 0 1 Temporary restructuring amounts - Assigned revenue (estimation : 1259 Mio EUR)	p.m.	1.287,2					
6 8 0 2 Irregularities concerning the temporary restructuring fund - Assigned revenue	p.m.	0,0					
Total Sugar Restructuring Fund	p.m.	1.287,2					

(*) Budget year = 16.10.06 to 15.10.07 but direct expenditure possible until 31.12.07

(**) For direct payments it concerns the commitments

(***) Including possible use of assigned revenue : see 'revenue' lines

(1) Chapter not exclusively EAGF

(2) Chapter outside title 05 but included in EAGF

(3) Used only for cases in which Member States are beneficiaries

(4) Of which EUR 15 million is entered into chapter 4002