The following communication, dated 22 January 1976, has been received from the Commission of the European Communities.

I have the honour to advise you, for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, of amendments made to the import régime in respect of live animals and meat coming within the bovine meat sector in the Community.

The new régime established by Regulation (EEC) No. 76/76 of the Commission - O.J. No. L 10 of 17.1.1976 - comprises a linked-sales system for frozen beef and veal by the intervention agencies to allow the import into the Community of cattle and meat (for import, the products are those to which the so-called "EXIM" system was applicable). Each quantity of meat purchased from intervention agencies gives entitlement to import an equivalent quantity of meat from third countries, for imports of live animals the ratio is 1:2. Furthermore, the regulation provides that the import levies are reduced by:

(a) 95 per cent in respect of frozen meat intended for processing under certain conditions;

(b) 60 per cent in respect of the other products to which the regulation is applicable.

Subject to certain transitional provisions, Regulation (EEC) No. 76/76 repeals Regulation (EEC) No. 1090/75 (the "EXIM" provisions).