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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Decision of 5 July 2005 concerning aid to the livestock and olive-growing sectors provided by Italy under Articles 4 and 5 of Law No 290/99, Article 15(16) of Law No 67/88 and Law No 252/91 (notified under document number C(2004) 4769) (Only the Italian text is authentic) (2007/655/EC). (See end of Document for details)*

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Commission Decision of 5 July 2005 concerning aid to the livestock and olive-growing sectors provided by Italy under Articles 4 and 5 of Law No 290/99, Article 15(16) of Law No 67/88 and Law No 252/91 (notified under document number C(2004) 4769) (Only the Italian text is authentic) (2007/655/EC)

Article 1 (1) The State aid which Italy implemented in favour of...  
Article 2 This Decision is addressed to the Italian Republic.  
Signature

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- (1) [OJ C 148, 27.5.2000, p. 2.](#)
- (2) SG(2000) D/101808.
- (3) [OJ L 83, 27.3.1999, p. 1.](#)
- (4) [OJ C 148, 27.5.2000, p. 2.](#)
- (5) Commission Decision SG (2002) D/229239 of 5 April 2002.
- (6) Over the 1970 to 1990 period France managed to reduce the number of its slaughtering plants from 1738 to 357. On the other hand, in the early 1990s, there were still 8 500 operational slaughtering plants in Italy as against the already mentioned 357 units in France, 270 in Germany and 30 in the Netherlands.
- (7) The amount of ITL 700 billion is made up of ITL 400 billion for 1988 and ITL 300 billion for 1989.
- (8) Letter SG (2002) D/229239).
- (9) For the purposes of the Commission's assessment, that is the Commission reference rate for Italy at the time of the loan.
- (10) See Commission letter of 28 January 1999.
- (11) [OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 21.](#)
- (12) [OJ L 282, 1.11.1975, p. 1.](#)
- (13) [OJ L 341, 22.12.2001, p. 3.](#)
- (14) In 2000, 1 154 000 t of bovine animals and calves were slaughtered in Italy. In the same period in EU 7 401 000 t of animals were slaughtered.
- (15) See letter of the Italian authorities of 18 May 2000.
- (16) [OJ C 232, 12.8.2000, pp. 17 to 41.](#)
- (17) Out of the 13 integrated projects originally submitted, only eight were approved and only five were eventually completed.
- (18) Council Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 of 29 March 1990 on improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products ([OJ L 91, 6.4.1990, pp. 1 to 6.](#))
- (19) In order to show compliance with the abovementioned requirement, at first the Italian authorities provided a study prepared by the Italian institute for studies, research and information on the agricultural market (ISMEA) of September 2000, which contained a general overview of the changes which characterised the slaughtering industry in Italy over the 1990s. The conclusion of the study was that over the 1990 to 1998 period, slaughtering capacity fell by 3 % in Italy. According to the Italian authorities this contraction proved that the investments undertaken on the basis of the laws under assessment complied with the abovementioned sectoral restrictions. The Commission objected that the contraction in slaughtering capacity described in the ISMEA study was the result of the trend in the meat sector over those years throughout Europe. Indeed, the reduction in the number of slaughtering facilities and in the slaughtering capacity which characterised the sector in Italy over the 1990s (mainly as a result of the need to adjust to new hygiene standards) had already characterised the slaughtering sectors of other countries over the 1970s (for example, France). As highlighted in the document, Italy started to reorganise its sector only later, during the 1980s and 1990s. The 3 % reduction claimed by the Italian authorities did not therefore prove compliance with Decision 90/342/EEC. The Italian authorities were therefore invited to provide the specific data of changes in slaughtering capacity brought about by the investments undertaken in each of the plants taking part in the integrated projects.
- (20) [OJ C 74, 10.3.1998, p. 9, as amended \(OJ C 258, 9.9.2000, p. 5\).](#)
- (21) Gea and Val di Cesola were part of the original project Centro Carni Sud, that was not completed and therefore not admitted to financing. The two projects undertaken by Gea and Val di Cesola, however, were fully completed and financed.
- (22) [OJ L 218, 6.8.1991, p. 1.](#)
- (23) Council Directive 91/629/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves ([OJ L 340, 11.12.1991, pp. 28 to 32.](#))

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- (24) Council Directive 91/630/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs ([OJ L 340, 11.12.1991, pp. 33 to 38](#)).
- (25) Letter of the Italian authorities of 18 May 2000.
- (26) See p. 5 of the abovementioned letter.
- (27) Letter of the Italian authorities of 13 October 2000.
- (28) SEC(89) 343/2 of 7.3.1989.
- (29) Legislative Decree No 1 of 9 January 1999 (Riordino degli enti e delle società di promozione e istituzione della società Sviluppo Italia S.p.A).
- (30) Bulletin EC 9-1984.
- (31) For an overall commitment of ITL 33 458 million.
- (32) *Ibid.*, point 3.3.
- (33) Private companies and individuals: CoopFons Spa, Agricola Sabbadina srl, CCFR Scarl. Among the credit institutes: Banca Agricola Mantovana, Em. Popolare Spa, Bipop Carire Spa, Banca Popolare di Verona — Banca S.Geminiano S. Prospero, Banca di Roma, Finec Merchant Spa, Agrisviluppo Spa.
- (34) Finagra, as financing member of cooperatives could appoint one member of the Administrative board and one of the statutory auditors' board.
- (35) [OJ C 307, 13.11.1993, pp. 3 to 14](#).
- (36) The guarantee granted by Finagra was indeed an additional guarantee, since the loan was already covered by a primary guarantee.

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