

## Statement by Guillaume Konsbruck (London, 3 April 1946)

**Caption:** On 3 April 1946, at the London Conference on supplies, Guillaume Konsbruck, Luxembourg Minister for Supplies, Provisions and Economic Affairs, outlines the agricultural situation in Luxembourg in the aftermath of the Second World War.

**Source:** Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies held in London from 3rd to 6th April 1946. London: 1946.

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## Statement by M. KONSBRUCK, Minister of Food, Supply and Economic Affairs.

" In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg cereals form a predominant part of agriculture. About one-third of the agricultural area, amounting to almost half of the total ploughed land, is devoted to the culture of cereals.

The Government policy in respect of cereals is to subsidize their production by fixing minimum prices for bread cereals and controlling food and feed cereal imports by a system of licensing.

As a result of the war, and, above all, as a result of the Rundstedt offensive, the cereal area was considerably reduced. The 1945 harvest of food cereals could, for instance, only cover our needs for three months as against nine months before the war. The combined harvest of wheat, rye and mixed grain (wheat plus rye) is considered as food or bread cereals and the utilization of any of these cereals for purposes other than bread making is forbidden.

Apart from their seed requirements the producers are authorized to retain 175 kilos per head of household per annum.

The remainder of the crop has to be compulsorily delivered to the controlled grain market specially organized for this purpose. Deliveries are controlled by the issue of certificates of origin established when the goods are delivered.

Since the first partial liberation of the country in September 1944 the supplies of bread have been sufficient, although very difficult during the months of the Rundstedt offensive. Since then the bread rations could be maintained at the reasonable level of 350 grs. per day.

The importation of food cereals since the beginning of the crop year 1945-6 have permitted increases in stock levels for the needs of non-producers from about 8,000 tons to 12,000 tons at the beginning of March 1946.

Imports required to supplement the harvest of 1946 amount to about 12,000 tons. The outlook for the 1946 harvest in food cereals foresees an increase both in sown areas and in yield. It is hoped that 60 per cent, of our needs can be covered from within the country against 25 per cent, for 1945-6.

In these circumstances the required imports for 1946-7 would not exceed about 16,000 tons.

The production of feed cereals (oats and barley) is utilized almost exclusively for the raising of stock—(bovine) cattle, horses, hogs. Feed cereals for fattening are in short supply and must be imported. Such imports are a determining factor for the development of our stock beyond the possibility of home feed supplies. This is, above all, the case for hogs.

Importation of 11,000 tons of feed cereals up to the 1st March 1946 permitted good progress to be realized in the reconstitution of the pig stock.

For 1946-7 it is hoped to achieve imports of 30,000 tons of feed cereals which would enable us to approach our pre-war production of milk and wheat.