COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES



Brussels, 29.6.2005 COM(2005) 287 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Financial Information on the European Development Funds

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INTRODUCTION

This document is to be annexed to the draft budget for 2006, in accordance with the 1979 agreements on budgetary procedure.

Article 8(3) of the Financial Regulation of 27 March 2003 applicable to the 9th European Development Fund (EDF)¹ requires the Commission to make this document available to the Council by 15 June, stipulating that this information serves as a basis for an interim estimate of commitments and payments.

As in previous years, this document shows:

- EDF implementation at 31 December 2004;
- financial implementation forecasts for the current year (2005);
- expenditure forecasts for 2006.

Since the entry into force of the 9th EDF, the Member States have made direct contributions to the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the 9th EDF instruments it manages (the Investment Facility and interest-rate subsidies), while contributions for the old instruments managed by the EIB (venture capital and interest-rate subsidies) continue to go through the Commission. This communication therefore draws a clear distinction between EIB payments under the 9th EDF and Commission payments (including payments under old instruments managed by the EIB).

Unless otherwise specified, all the commitments and payments referred to in this Communication are given in gross figures, i.e. before deduction of decommitments and recoveries respectively. This approach is in line with that used for the general budget of the EU. In 2004, the Commission rectified some Stabex transactions. In order to present here figures that reflect economic reality, the impact has been redistributed over the years concerned (2001-2004). More detailed information on this correction is given in Annex 1 to the technical annex of the 2004 Financial Management Report which will be available in June 2005.

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OJ L 83, 1.4.2003, p.1.

SUMMARY

Table 1 gives an overview of implementation in 2004 and updated forecasts for 2005 and 2006. In implementation, there was a slight delay in commitments compared with the October 2004 estimates (see section 1.2.1) but this may be reabsorbed in the coming years. Payments were the highest in the history of the EDF.

The Commission has updated its forecast commitments and payments given in the October 2004 communication² for the years 2005 and 2006 for each of the ACP³ countries and OCTs⁴. As in 2004, it has taken great care with the payments estimate in order to (i) minimise the risk of Member States' earmarking too great an amount in their national budgets; while (ii) ensuring the EDF is adequately funded and that there are no liquidity problems of the type encountered at the end of 2003 and in May 2004. The EIB has also updated its forecasts for instruments of both the 9th and previous Funds. The full figures are set out in this communication. As usual, these estimates will be revised in the October communication.

The combined volume of commitments for the Commission and the EIB should be just over EUR 4 billion in 2005 and EUR 3.6 to 3.7 billion in 2006, enabling the total financial envelope made available by the Cotonou agreement to be used (including transfers from previous EDFs) by the end of 2007. Payments should reach approximately EUR 3 billion for the first time in 2005. The preliminary estimate for 2006 is EUR 3.2 to EUR 3.3 billion. The new estimates for 2005 and 2006, which include a preliminary estimate for use of the balance of the conditional EUR 1 billion, are given in more detail under points 2 and 3 of this document. Point 4 gives the updated balance sheet and the contributions to be paid by the Member States. Table 3 provides a summary. Annex 3 gives a breakdown of contributions by tranche for each Member State.

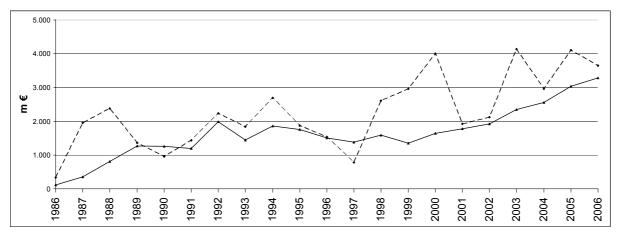
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² COM(2004) 763 final, 19.11.2004. EDF: Estimate of commitments and payments and of contributions to be paid by the Member States for 2004 and 2005 – Forecast of commitments and payments for 2006 to 2009.

³ African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

⁴ Overseas countries and territories.

The following graph illustrates commitment and payment trends. It clearly shows the structural upward trend of payments since 2000.



---- Commitments

____ Payments

Table 1 - Updated estimate of commitments and payments (in EUR million)

	2004		2005		2006	
	Communication October 2004 ⁵	Implementation	Communication: October 2004 ⁶	Update	Communication: October 2004	Update
COMMITMENTS						
Traditional Commission instruments	2 597	2 343	3 303	3 290		2 635
Peace Facility	250	250	-	-		-
Stabex		10		10		10
Water Facility	3	45	197	80		125
Additional €750 m				120		330
Total for the Commission	2 850	2 648	3 500	3 500		3 100
EIB instruments (9th EDF)	335	314	555	610		550
TOTAL	3 185	2 962	4 055	4 110	3 500	3 650
PAYMENTS						
Traditional Commission instruments	2 282	2 267	2 367	2 296		2 372
Old EIB instruments	170	153	135	92		72
Peace Facility	22	37	61	80		95
Water Facility	1	0	57	14		38
Additional €750 m				0		153
Sub-total	2 475	2 457	2 620	2 482		2 730
Stabex		7		17		20
DR Congo		0		89		
Total for the Commission	2 475	2 464	2 620	2 588		2 750
Total 9th EDF EIB instruments	94	93	222	445		489
TOTAL	2 569	2 557	2 842	3 033	3 400	3 239

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As amended on submission to the Council (see Council document No 194/04 ACP of 6 December 2004).

⁶ Idem.

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

1.1. Availability at 31 December 2004

Unlike the figures in the rest of the document, the figures given in this section for commitments and payments are net, i.e. after decommitments and recoveries. This is necessary to determine the level of available funds, which is by definition net.

Taking account of transfers from previous EDFs, total funds available under the 9th EDF at the end of the year for the Commission and the EIB stood at EUR 16 149 million. Of this amount, approximately EUR 6 475 million was committed. The balance (EUR 9 674 million) will be committed before the end of 2007. These figures take account of the mobilisation of the EUR 250 million of the conditional EUR 1 billion for the Water Facility. The balance (EUR 750 million) is not included in the appropriation available.

More detailed figures are given in Annex 1.

1.2. Implementation of the EDFs in 2004

1.2.1. Commitments

After a record level of new commitments in 2003 (EUR 4 135 million), linked to the relatively late entry into force of the 9th EDF, commitments fell in 2004 to a normal level (EUR 2 962 million) for the second year of a new commitments cycle. Especially for the Commission part (EUR 2 648 million), commitments remained slightly (7%) below the objective set in the October 2004 communication (EUR 2 850 million). This delay is mainly due to the fact that two important projects could not be implemented: a major road construction project in Uganda (approximately EUR 100 million) because Uganda failed to comply with certain conditions, and a rehabilitation programme in Sudan (approximately EUR 50 million), as a result of the political situation reigning in Sudan. The Commission made decommitments of around EUR 298 million, bringing net Commission commitments to EUR 2 350 million.

1.2.2. Payments

The payments made in 2004 (EUR 2 557 million for the Commission and the EIB) were the highest ever and confirm the positive structural trend in the volume of payments.

With a sum of EUR 2 464 million, the Commission has almost achieved the volume forecast in October last year (EUR 2 475 million). If the Commission had had all the contributions requested from the Member States before the end of 2004, it could have made an additional payment for a campaign against polio (EUR 41 million) and expenditure would have reached EUR 2 505 million. The EIB made payments of EUR 93 million in line with its October forecasts.

The Commission made recoveries and payment corrections of about EUR 50 million, bringing the Commission's total net payments to the order EUR 2 414 million.

1.2.3. Breakdown of commitments and payments by instrument

For information purposes, the table in Annex 2 gives the breakdown of expenditure by instrument for the years 2003 and 2004.

1.2.4. Financial movements in 2004

The table below gives the start-of-year and end-of-year balances for 2004, the Member States' contributions to the EDF and payments. The table does not include payments made under Stabex (EUR 7.3 million) nor special measures for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUR 0.1 million) because this expenditure was made from separate accounts to which Member State contributions have already been made and which did not require new financial resources via normal calls for contributions

Note that the Commission ended 2004 with a cash balance of around EUR 62 million on its current account. This is lower than in previous years and shows that the Commission is doing everything it can to use the financial resources placed at its disposal by the Member States efficiently. As a result of the transfer of EUR 100 million to the Commission, decided by the Council in November 2004, the EIB ended the year with a balance of approximately EUR 8 million.

Table 2 - Financial movements in 2004 (current accounts)

€ million

	Commission	EIB 9th EDF	TOTAL
Balance at 01.01.2004	82.3	67.5	149.7
Member States' contributions for 2004:	2 315.0	25.0	2 340.0
1st tranche	725.0	125.0	850.0
2nd tranche	1 100.0	0,0	1 100.0
3rd tranche	390.0	0.0	390.0
Transfer from the EIB to the Commission	100.0	-100.0	0.0
2003 contributions paid in 2004	95.	8.5	104.3
2004 contributions paid in 2003	-1.4		-1.4
2004 contributions paid in 2005	-42.4		-42.4
Interest and other products	19.0		19.0
Recoveries and corrections	50.3		50.3
Payments	-2 456.9	-93.1	-2 550.0
Balance 31.12.2004 ⁷	61.7	7.8	69.5

2. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION FORECASTS FOR 2005 AND 2006

2.1. Commitments

2.1.1. 2005 financial year

Reminder

In its communication of October 2004,⁸ the Commission and the EIB estimated total commitments in 2005 at EUR 4 055 million, broken down as follows:

- EUR 555 million for the instruments managed by the EIB under the 9th EDF, and
- EUR 3 500 million for the instruments managed by the Commission. This figure took account of the mobilisation of EUR 250 million for the Water Facility as the

8 See footnote 2.

Without EUR 180.4 million in 2005 contributions paid at the end of December 2004.

first tranche of the conditional EUR 1 billion, decided by the Council⁹ in March 2004.

Position at 30 April 2005

- Between 1 January and 30 April, the EIB had committed a total of EUR 126 million from the Investment Facility and approximately EUR 33 million for interest-rate subsidies (9th EDF).
- Commitments from instruments managed by the Commission stood at EUR 297 million. Note that the commitment procedure is such that a large number of pending commitments accumulate in the first half of the year. Most are project proposals in the course of adoption by the Commission that require consultation with the Member States. On 30 April, this volume was EUR 615 million. The total therefore stood at EUR 912 million (final amounts and those pending adoption).

Outlook for implementation to the end of 2005

- The EIB is raising its forecast for 2005 from EUR 555 million to EUR 610 million (+ EUR 55 million). Of this EUR 610 million, EUR 537 million is earmarked for the Investment Facility and EUR 73 million for operations eligible for interest-rate subsidies.
- For the Commission, the new estimates of EUR 3 500 million confirm the overall amount announced in October 2004 and remain quite ambitious at this stage but are in line with the timetable for fully using up the financial envelope by the end of 2007. This amount includes EUR 80 million for the Water Facility (from the first tranche of EUR 250 million decided in 2004). As to the mobilisation of the additional EUR 750 million (the balance of the conditional EUR 1 billion), EUR 120 million was included in this estimate on a preliminary basis. This amount is in line with the Commission proposal on the use of the additional envelope. It should be adjusted according to the decision taken by the Council.
- In total, the revised level of commitments is EUR 4 110 million (+EUR 55 million).

2.1.2. 2006 financial year

Whereas in its October 2004 communication the Commission based its forecasts for 2006 on the commitments cycle usually observed for previous EDFs, it has now based its forecasts on specific plans. Tentatively assuming that EUR 330 million are committed from the additional EUR 750 million, forecast commitments are EUR 3 100 million. As regards the new instruments managed by the EIB, the Bank

⁹ Council Decision 2004/289 of 22 March 2004.

reckons that it will be able to commit EUR 550 million. Commitments for the Commission and the EIB would therefore total about EUR 3 650 million. Maintaining this high level reflects the pledge made by the Commission and the EIB to mobilise all the sums made available by the Cotonou Agreement.

2.2. Payments

2.2.1. 2005 financial year

Reminder

In October 2004,¹⁰ the Commission and the EIB estimated a total of EUR 2 842 million for 2005, broken down as follows:

- EUR 222 million for the instruments managed by the EIB under the 9th EDF, and
- EUR 2 620 million for the instruments managed by the Commission (including former EIB instruments).

State of implementation at 30 April 2005

- At 30 April 2004, the EIB had made payments of EUR 41 million.
- The Commission had paid EUR 535 million. This is higher than in the past at the same time of the year. In addition to these sums, approximately EUR 126 million was in the pipeline, i.e. payment had been ordered by the Commission.

Outlook for implementation to the end of 2005

- The EIB has revised its forecasts upwards, from EUR 222 million in October 2004 to EUR 445 million now (+ EUR 223 million). Of this EUR 445 million, EUR 372 million is earmarked for the Investment Facility and EUR 73 million for operations eligible for interest-rate subsidies.
- As last year, the Commission has been particularly careful when updating payment estimates. For each country, it has drawn up a forecast per project (commitment) and per contract. The new forecast results in a total for the Commission of EUR 2 588 million, which is close to the estimate of October 2004 (EUR 2 620 million). The slight drop is explained by (a) a downward revision by the EIB of payments under the old instruments (risk capital and interest-rate subsidies) from EUR 135 million to EUR 92 million, and (b) a reduction of the expected expenditure for the Water Facility from EUR 57 million to EUR 14 million (payments will probably be distributed over a longer period than estimated initially; also the great success of the call for proposal means a

See footnote 5.

slight delay in the award of contracts). With regard to the mobilisation of the EUR 750 million (the balance of the conditional EUR 1 billion), no sum has been earmarked at this stage. The situation will be reassessed in the October 2005 communication.

• In total, the EIB and the Commission's combined needs amount to EUR 3 033 million, i.e. EUR 191 million more than was estimated in October (EUR 2 842 million).

2.2.2. 2006 financial year

For 2006, the forecast total is EUR 3 239 million, comprising:

- EUR 489 million for the EIB from the 9th EDF, EUR 39 million of it for interestrate subsidies;
- EUR 2 750 million for the traditional instruments managed by the Commission.

Given that they concern a fairly long time frame, the figures must be treated with caution.

3. FINANCIAL SITUATION FORECAST FOR 2005 AND 2006

Table 3: Financial forecasts for 2005 and 2006.

EUR million

	October			Revision		
	Communication ¹¹					
	Commission	EIB 9 th	TOTAL	Commission	EIB 9 th	TOTAL
		EDF			EDF	
Balance 31.01.2005	82	7	89	62	8	70
2004 contributions paid in 2005		-	0	42	-	42
2005 contributions of which:	2 560	222	2 782	2 385	460	2 845
1st tranche (decided)	1 360	60	1 420	1 360	60	1 420
2nd tranche	800	99	899	750	300	1 050
3rd tranche	400	63	463	275	100	375
Interest	5	-	5	5	-	5
Recoveries	50	-	50	50	-	50
Payments	-2 620	-222	-2 842	-2 482	-445	-2 927
Balance 31.12.2005	77	7	84	62	23	85
2006 contributions				2 720	500	3 220
Interest				5	-	5
Recoveries				50	-	50
Payments				-2 780	-489	-3 269
Balance 31.12.2006				57	34	91

To cope with the sharp increase in payment forecasts, the EIB requests an increase in contributions of EUR 238 million for 2005 (EUR 460 million against EUR 222 million in October).

For the Commission, the total payments forecast does not vary significantly from October's estimate. However, the amounts that will be spent from the secure Stabex account and the separate DR Congo account (elections) should be subtracted, i.e. EUR 106 million (see table 1), because this expenditure does not require any new financial resources from the Member States. Taking into account also the EUR 42 million paid in January 2005 as 2004 contributions, total 2005 contributions

See footnote 5.

can be reduced by EUR 175 million. This reduction absorbs a large part of the increase requested by the EIB.

Table 3 sets out the amount of the three calls. The amount requested by the EIB for the 2nd tranche (EUR 300 million) is a sharp increase. To enable the Member States to cope more easily with this increase, the Commission can accept a second tranche that is slightly lower than forecast in October (EUR 750 million against EUR 800 million). Following a better distribution of payments over the year, the Commission is asking for a third tranche of contributions that is lower than in the past, to compensate the second tranche.

A preliminary forecast of contributions for 2006 produces a figure of EUR 3 160 million. The increase in (estimated) contributions between 2003 and 2006 is considerable (2003: EUR 2 200 million; 2004: EUR 2 440 million; 2005: EUR 2 845 million) and reflects the improving performance of the EDF.

4. THE FUTURE

The Commission reiterates its pledge to do everything in its power to mobilise the funds made available under the Cotonou Agreement (including transfers from old Funds) for the end of 2007. It is clear that achievement of this objective is not up to the Commission alone. Indeed, the very nature of the cooperation agreements (Lomé and Cotonou), namely the fact that they are based on partnership, means that the rate at which the EDF is implemented will depend on the absorption capacity of the ACP countries (sufficiently stable political situation, minimum governance, etc). The Commission will continue supporting them by giving all possible technical assistance to the National Authorising Officers and proposing corrective measures if necessary, at the latest when funds are reallocated following the end-of-term review in 2006.

ANNEX 1

Consolidated situation of the EDF (6th to 9th) for the ACP countries and OCTS 31 December 2004 (EUR million)

MANAGED BY THE COMMISSION			_ 12
		Commitments	Payments ¹²
National and territorial allocations	23 975	17 522	11 209
CDE, ¹³ CTA ¹⁴ and JPE ¹⁵	65	65	28
Long-term development reserve	430	0	0
Regional cooperation	6 197	5 021	3 023
Interest-rate subsidies	395	395	352
Risk capital (EDF 6 to 8)	2 566	2 566	2 137
Structural adjustment facility	2 747	2 747	2 634
Emergency assistance	724	724	720
Aid for refugees	298	298	263
Stabex	3 853	3 853	3 407
Sysmin	703	703	563
Use of interest	38	38	30
Transfer from EDFs 1 to 5	441	441	393
Debt relief (7 th and 8 th EDFs)	1 100	1 100	1 100
Studies and TA ¹⁶ for the OCTS	2	1	0
Cost of implementation	125	125	55
DR Congo special assistance	107	92	0
Miscellaneous revenue	36	2	0
Subtotal	43 802	35 692	25 914
MANAGED BY THE EIB			
Interest-rate subsidies	188	0	0
Investment Facility	2 057	680	97
Subtotal	2 245	680	97
GRAND TOTAL (6th to 9th EDFs)	46 047	36 372	26 011

Unlike the figures given elsewhere in this document, the figures in this table are net, i.e. they take account decommitments and recoveries (necessary to know the level of availability, which is by definition net).

An amount of € 4.4 million paid to Ethiopia was not reclassified as payments in the accounting system in the context of the 2004 Stabex regularisation and will be booked on the 2005 accounts.

Centre for the Development of Enterprise.

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development.

Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

Technical assistance.

ANNEX 2

Breakdown of expenditure by instrument for the years 2003 and 2004

EUR million

	2003		2004	4	
	commitments	payments ¹⁷	commitments	payments	
PROGRAMMES MANAGED BY THE COMMISSION					
6th to 8th EDF					
Indicative Programmes					
Total	213.2	1 073.0	0	1 075.1	
Excluding indicative programmes					
Interest-rate subsidies	13.6	8.5	-	9.8	
Emergency Assistance	2.3	6.4	-	2.5	
Aid to refugees	-	32.1	-	26.9	
Risk capital	240.3	226.6	-	143.3	
Mining products	2.5	40.3	-	27.4	
Stabex	7.7	109.3	9.6	7.3	
Structural adjustment facility	5.0	174.5	-	89.7	
HIPC (debt relief)	-	209.0	-	-	
Transfer from other Funds	3.0	17.8	-	11.2	
Use of interest	11.5	7.7	-	16.4	
Studies + technical assistance OCTs	0.7	0.3	-	0.0	
Total	286.5	832.4	9.6	334.5	
9th EDF + transitional measures					
Envelope A	1 918.5	162.9	1 739.5	654.7	
Envelope B	220.3	44.8	230.2	144.4	
Regional projects	177.6	1.6	134.1	12.3	
Intra-ACP Cotonou Projects	759.8	230.4	413.6	158.9	
Costs of implementation	154.8		93.8	56.6	
Other	37.9		27.0	27.7	
Total	3 268.8	439.6	2 638.2	1 054.6	
Total managed by the Commission	3 768.5	2 345.0	2 647.8	2 464.3	
PROGRAMMES MANAGED BY THE EIB (9TH EDF)					
Investment Facility	366.2	4.0	314.2	93.1	
EDF TOTAL	4 134.7	2 349.1	2 962.0	2 557.4	

¹

See footnote 12.

ANNEX 3

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDF FOR 2005 (in euros)

COUNTRY	SCALE	1st tranche		2nd tranche		3rd tranche		TOTAL
	8th EDF	paid to	paid to	payable to	payable	payable to	payable to	
	%	EIB	Commission	EIB	Commission	EIB	Commission	tranches
GERMANY	23.36	14 016 000	317 696 000	70 080 000	175 200 000	23 360 000	64 240 000	664 592 000
BELGIUM	3.92	2 352 000	53 312 000	11 760 000	29 400 000	3 920 000	10 780 000	111 524 000
DENMARK	2.14	1 284 000	29 104 000	6 420 000	16 050 000	2 140 000	5 885 000	60 883 000
SPAIN	5.84	3 504 000	79 424 000	17 520 000	43 800 000	5 840 000	16 060 000	166 148 000
FRANCE	24.30	14 580 000	330 480 000	72 900 000	182 250 000	24 300 000	66 825 000	691 335 000
GREECE	1.25	750 000	17 000 000	3 750 000	9 375 000	1 250 000	3 437 500	35 562 500
IRELAND	0.62	372 000	8 432 000	1 860 000	4 650 000	620 000	1 705 000	17 639 000
ITALY	12.54	7.524 000	170 544 000	37 620 000	94 050 000	12 540 000	34 485 000	356 763 000
LUXEMBOURG	0.29	174 000	3 944 000	870 000	2 175 000	290 000	797 500	8 250 500
NETHERLANDS	5.22	3 132 000	70 992 000	15 660 000	39 150 000	5 220 000	14 355 000	148 509 000
PORTUGAL	0.97	582 000	13 192 000	2 910 000	7 275 000	970 000	2 667 500	27 596 500
UK	12.69	7 614 000	172 584 000	38 070 000	95 175 000	12 690 000	34 897 500	361 030 500
AUSTRIA	2.65	1 590 000	36 040 000	7 950 000	19 875 000	2 650 000	7 287 500	75 392 500
FINLAND	1.48	888 000	20 128 000	4 440 000	11 100 000	1 480 000	4 070 000	42 106 000
SWEDEN	2.73	1 638 000	37 128 000	8 190 000	20 475 000	2 730 000	7 507 500	77 668 500
TOTAL	100.00	60 000 000	1 360 000 000	300 000 000	750 000 000	100 000 000	275 000 000	2 845 000 000

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