



Adoption of two programmes for Italy

The European Commission recently approved Community funding for two regional development programmes for Campania and Sicily.

The programme for Campania provides for a Structural Fund contribution of ECU 1.328 billion towards total costs of ECU 2.89 billion. It consists of six subprogrammes:

- transport: road and rail network and ports (13% of the Community contribution);
- industry, craft trades and services: assistance for business creation and development (6%);
- tourism (10%);
- diversification/better use of agricultural resources and rural development (20%);
- support infrastructures for economic activities (26%);
- development of human resources (25%).

The programme for Sicily provides for a Community contribution of ECU 1.337 billion towards total public expenditure of ECU 2.26 billion.

It is divided into three parts:

- five ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) subprogrammes: support infrastructures for economic activities, environment, business services, industry, craft trades, tourism (42% of the Community contribution);
- two ESF (European Social Fund) subprogrammes: training, inclusion and integration, equal opportunities (32%);
- five EAGGF (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) Guidance Section subprogrammes: allowances for farmers, agricultural resources and support infrastructures, rural development (26%).

Initiative for the textiles and clothing sector in Portugal

On 9 October 1995 the European Commission approved a programme implementing the Community initiative for the textiles and clothing sector in Portugal.

The programme, which will receive a Community contribution of ECU 406 million towards total costs of ECU 948 million, will promote the modernisation and competitiveness of the Portuguese textiles and clothing industry. It includes measures to

improve production methods, provide easier access for businesses to various sources of funding (risk capital), and improve the quality of the finished products (creation of a fashion centre).

The Community initiative for the Portuguese textiles and clothing sector was introduced following the decision at the Edinburgh Summit in December 1993 to grant special assistance to the Portuguese textiles industry to help it cope with the opening up of the European market under the GATT.

The Structural Funds in Sweden

The European Commission recently approved, following the first reading, the single programming documents (SPDs) for the Swedish regions eligible under Objective 2 (industrial regions in decline) and Objective 6 (very thinly populated areas) of the Structural Funds. After the committees provided for in the regulations have been consulted, these programmes will be finally adopted and become operational immediately.

Since the Objective 2 regions are split into five separate areas, the Swedish authorities drew up five separate SPDs in partnership with the European Commission (see table).

For Objective 6, which covers a large area in the north of the country (50% of the country's surface area, but only 5% of its population), there is only one SPD. This programme is to receive a Community contribution of ECU 252 million towards a total public investment of ECU 488 million.

The public funds will be split as follows: 34% for direct business development, 18% for measures to assist businesses in the information, technology, research and education sectors, 26% for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural resources, 17% for rural and communal development, 3% for Sami culture (Lapland) and 2% for technical assistance.

Objective 2 area	Population	Total public investment (ECU million at 1995 prices)	Structural Fund contribution (ECU million at 1995 prices)
S Angermanlandskusten	101 700	47	18
Bergslagen	409 000	218	67
Blekinge	92 400	48	15
Fyrstad	154 000	80	24
Norra Norrlandskusten	210 000	119	36
Total Objective 2 for Sweden	967 100	512	160

Adoption of eleven new programmes

Between 28 September and 23 October 1995 the Commission also approved part-financing by the Structural Funds of a global grant

(Andalusia - Structural Fund contribution: ECU 223.89 million) and ten Community initiative programmes.

Area concerned	Community Initiative	Total public investment (ECU million at 1995 prices)	Structural Fund contribution (ECU million at 1995 prices)
B Wallonie	SMEs	14.20	9.41
D Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	SMEs	24.42	18.30
Thüringen	Konver II	38.01	19.50
Chemnitz (Sachsen)	Urban	12.60	9.20
F Rhône-Alpes	Rechar II	2.02	1.01
NL Nederland	SMEs	20.86	10.34
UK Highlands and Islands	SMEs	6.08	3.04
Lowland Scotland	SMEs	17.03	8.52
B/NL Euregio Middengebied	Interreg II	56.88	32.41
D/F Saarland-Lorraine-Pfalz	Interreg II	46.50	22.30

News in brief

ERDF innovatory measures

The invitation to submit proposals for urban pilot projects, to be funded between 1995 and 1999 under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation, will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities at the end of November 1995. DG XVI's Internet site (electronic address:

<http://www.cec.lu/en/comm/dg16/dg16home.html>) now contains detailed information in English on pilot projects on innovation, the information society, new sources of employment and cultural cooperation; the application forms for these innovatory measures can be downloaded in all languages of the European Union.



European Commission
Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

CX-AB-95-022-EN-C