



Objective 1

Hainaut (B) and Flevoland (NL)

On 11 and 26 May, the European Commission took two decisions in principle on single programming documents (SPD) for the provinces of Hainaut and Flevoland over the period 1994-1999.

These documents cover Structural Fund contributions (ERDF, ESF, EAGGF - Guidance section and FIG) for the provinces, both of which are eligible under Objective 1. They will be definitively adopted by the Commission after consulting the four committees specified in the Structural Fund regulations.

Hainaut

Between now and the end of the century, Belgian Hainaut will benefit from a Structural Fund contribution totalling 730 million ecus.

The funding will be concentrated on four priorities:

- Relaunching economic growth (66.1% of the Structural Fund contribution).
- Promoting the attractiveness of the area and rural development (12.6%).
- Completing the transport infrastructure (4.2%).
- Creating opportunities for all (17.1%).

The overall aim is to increase Hainaut's gross domestic product per capita by 2 points compared with the Community average (it was at 77.3% in 1992).

Flevoland

Over the period 1994-99, the contribution of the Structural Funds in Flevoland will total 150 million ecus, shared between eight priorities:

- Business development measures (14.9% of the Structural Fund contribution).
- Tourism (3.5%).
- Agriculture and rural development (14.4%).
- Fisheries (5.6%).
- Development of human resources (19%).
- Commercial infrastructure (11.5%).
- Communications (21.3%).
- Research and development (9.8%).

The quantified objectives assigned to the Flevoland programme include an increase in per capita GDP to 85% of the Community average and employment growth 3 points above the average for the Netherlands.

What is SPD ?

The single programming document is a new feature which came out of the July 1993 revision of the Structural Fund regulations. It allows the Member States to include their requests for financial support in the development plans which they submit to the Commission.

Whereas Community Support Frameworks (CSFs), which are negotiated solely on the basis of development plans, require a subsequent adoption of programmes in order to be put into effect, SPD is immediately operational as it brings together both the strategy and the financing programmes.

Timetable for Community Initiatives

The European Commission's draft communications on Community Initiatives, which were presented in April, have now been submitted to all the required bodies (EP, ESC, Committee of the Regions, Management Committee).

On 3 and 5 May, the European Parliament approved the package of 13 Community Initiatives. The Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee gave

their opinions on 18 May and 2 June respectively. The new Management Committee approved the Community Initiatives as a whole on 26 May.

The Commission's finalized guidelines on these Initiatives will be adopted shortly. Once the texts are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, the Member States will generally have four months to present their proposed programmes to the Commission.

Euroleaders

The 20 businesses chosen for the third phase of Euroleaders held their first working session in Spa, Belgium, on 28 May.

Euroleaders is a pilot scheme which aims to help a small number of businesses chosen for the quality of their projects to develop a European strategy. Each phase of Euroleaders is based on two 10-day sessions focusing mainly on training for international management and on seeking out commercial, technological or financial partners.

The business plans of the 1994 Euroleaders businesses (17 from the European Union and three from Israel) will be presented in Oporto, Portugal, on 5 December. The 1994 Euroleaders scheme is supported by the European Commission (DGXVI, Directorate general for Regional Policies) and by a number of private sector partners: PA Consulting Group, KPMG, Ceran Langues, the Financial Times and Publicis.

Planning

Objective 1 CSF Spain

On 1 June, the European Commission took a decision in principle on the Community Support Framework for Objective 1 regions in Spain. More information on the content of this document will be included in issue no. 6 of Inforegio News (July 1994).

Informal Ministerial Councils

On 3 and 4 June, an Informal Council of Ministers for regional policy and spatial planning took place in Corfu. The main issues discussed during the meeting were as follows:

- recent developments in Community regional policies.
- the European territory post-Maastricht.
- cross-border and interregional cooperation.
- the general content of the development plans for the Community's territory.

The next Informal Ministerial Council will take place in Leipzig on 26 and 27 September.

New publications

The fourth annual report on the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds is now available in all Community languages.

Catalogue number OPOCE: C2-81-93-866-C.

Also available are the lists of the 1993 regional development programmes. These lists, which are generally organised by country and in the language of the country concerned, present a 2-page summary on each operational programme and global grant, setting out their objectives, the financial resources allocated to them and the names and addresses of the national or regional authorities responsible for their implementation.

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