



## First single programming documents for Objective 2

On 9 and 23 November the European Commission gave a first reading and initial approval to forty-four single programming documents or 'SPDs' covering assistance from the Structural Funds in 1994-96 under Objective 2 (economic and social conversion of declining industrial areas).

Once an opinion has been issued by the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions (i.e. the ERDF committee) and the Committee referred to in Article 124 of the Treaty (i.e. the ESF committee), both of which consist of representatives of the Member States, the Commission will move to final adoption of these programmes. They then become operational and the socio-economic actors concerned will be able to apply to the national or regional authorities responsible for implementing them for finance for their particular projects.

The SPDs list local impact on employment as the priority for Structural Fund assistance in the areas covered. The aim is to change local production structures, raise qualification levels in the workforce and encourage the emergence of new jobs, in particular by financing schemes to provide investment aid and stimulate economic development, research, training and environmental improvement.

The SPDs now approved in principle will mobilize ECU 3.051 billion in Structural Fund assistance. It is worth recalling that the areas qualifying under Objective 2 in 1994-96 are to receive a total of some ECU 6.9 billion in Community contributions and that, with 58.1 million inhabitants, they account for 16.8% of the Community's population.

Region	Total investment in million ecu	SF contribution in million ecu	Region	Total investment in million ecu	SF contribution in million ecu
<b>B</b> Aubange	3.183	1.300	Haute-Normandie	396.870	146.000
Limburg	121.849	46.800	Languedoc-Roussillon	219.461	70.500
Turnhout	58.060	23.400	Lorraine	282.650	127.400
<b>DK</b> Nordjylland	185.320	46.480	Midi-Pyrénées	151.300	42.600
Lolland	29.465	9.520	Pays de la Loire	321.650	135.900
<b>D</b> Bayern	33.524	14.660	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	295.690	113.100
Berlin	384.476	158.328	Picardie	429.169	122.400
Bremen	176.170	46.910	Rhône-Alpes	316.679	99.700
Hessen	61.349	21.257	<b>I</b> Emilia Romagna	39.463	12.000
Niedersachsen	126.387	42.514	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	104.760	24.000
Nordrhein-Westfalen	1279.659	361.370	Lazio	193.420	64.000
Rheinland-Pfalz	49.042	23.456	Liguria	274.720	96.000
Saarland	212.052	49.111	Lombardia	76.120	23.000
Schleswig-Holstein	31.981	15.393	Piemonte	695.896	205.000
<b>F</b> Alsace	46.023	19.600	Toscana	485.126	127.000
Aquitaine	379.220	107.100	Umbria	80.053	35.000
Auvergne	125.996	61.100	Valle d'Aosta	15.440	6.000
Basse-Normandie	169.470	57.800	<b>L</b> Luxembourg	20.675	7.000
Bourgogne	130.385	49.400	<b>NL</b> Arnhem Nijmegen	171.620	56.000
Bretagne	262.290	89.700	Twente	197.480	58.000
Champagne-Ardenne	211.257	77.500	Zuid Limburg	130.280	43.000
Franche-Comté	111.687	47.800	Zuidoost Brabant	177.000	67.000

# Nine new Objective 1 programmes

On 31 October and 25 November the Commission approved part-financing from the Structural Funds for 16 measures involving regions lagging behind in their development. These include an operational programme (OP) on business development in Ireland and one in Italy for the development of Sardinia; in Spain they involve two cross-

regional operational programmes of assistance for business and the development of local authority areas, two global grants (GG), one for small businesses in Murcia and one for small businesses in all the Objective 1 regions, and eleven individual programmes for the eleven regions eligible under Objective 1.

Region/field	Total investment million ecu	Structural Fund contribution million ecu	Region/field	Total investment million ecu	Structural Fund contribution million ecu
IRL Business development (OP)	2,844	1,029	E Castilla-La Mancha (OP)	1,780	937
I Sardegna (OP)	2,103	967	Castilla-León (OP)	2,752	1,613
E Assistance to businesses (OP)	3,126	387	Ceuta (OP)	71	47
Municipal development (OP)	813	581	Comunidad Valenciana (OP)	3,692	1,208
Murcia SME (GG)	562	79	Extremadura (OP)	1,578	1,012
Objective 1 SME (GG)	301	211	Galicia (OP)	2,493	1,544
Asturias (OP)	1,399	809	Melilla (OP)	82	42
Canarias (OP)	1,179	695	Murcia (OP)	767	487
Cantabria (OP)	537	343			

## New Objective 5(b) decisions

On 16 November the Commission gave a first reading and initial approval to ten further single programming documents covering rural areas in France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. These SPDs will be finally adopted after consultation of the STAR Committee (management committee on agricultural structures and rural development).

Together these ten programmes will mobilize ECU 3.23 billion, including ECU 803 million from the Structural Funds.

The areas covered are located in the following regions: Midi-Pyrénées, Rhône-Alpes (F), Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lombardia, Umbria (I), Groningen/Drenthe, Overijssel, Zeeland (NL), Dumfries and Galloway, English Northern Uplands (UK).

## In brief

### New Commissioner

The designated members of the next Commission, at an informal meeting on 29 October, agreed on the allocation of portfolios. Monika Wulf-Mathies (D) is to be the new Commissioner for regional policies, relations with the Committee of the Regions and the Cohesion Fund [the latter in agreement with Neil Kinnock (UK) and Ritt Bjerregaard (DK)]. Between 1968 and 1976, she was an official at the Federal Ministry of Economics and in the Chancellor's Office. Since 1982 she has been head of the ÖTV (trade union for public servants and the transport industry). The European Parliament will be voting to approve the investiture of the new Commission around 18 January 1995.

### Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation

On 21 November the Commission presented to the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions ("ERDF Committee") its priorities for innovative schemes to be financed by the Structural Funds under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation. Four priorities have been fixed:

- interregional cooperation (Pacte, Recite, Ouverture/Ecos, horizontal schemes)
- regional development planning (studies and pilot projects)
- innovative schemes in regional economic development (mobilizing local resources, regional technology plans, investment in cultural facilities)
- development of urban policies (studies and creation of networks).

