

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(83) 192 final

Brussels, 12 April 1983

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

increasing by 25 % the limits for the amount of work
to be done as set out in Article 11(2) of Regulation
(EEC) N° 269/79 establishing a common measure for forestry
in certain Mediterranean zones of the Community

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(83) 192 final

COMMISSION REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
ON THE APPLICATION OF REGULATION (EEC) No 269/79
ESTABLISHING A COMMON MEASURE FOR FORESTRY IN
CERTAIN MEDITERRANEAN ZONES OF THE COMMUNITY*

(Progress report)

This report on the state of progress of work under the common forestry measure established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 269/79 is presented by the Commission to the Council in accordance with Article 10(3).

The report reveals that the limits for the amount of work to be done, as set out in Article 11, are likely to be reached before the expiry of the five-year period covered by the common measure and concludes that it will be necessary to implement the provision allowing the limits in question to be increased by 25%.

A proposal for a Regulation is attached (Annex II).

I. DESCRIPTION OF MEASURE

1. Objectives

The common forestry measure established by Regulation (EEC) No 269/79 supplements common agricultural measures relating particularly to the Mediterranean regions of the Community by contributing to:

- the conservation and improvement of the soil, the fauna, the flora and the surface and ground-water balance;
- the productivity of agricultural land by forming windbreaks and shelter belts and by affecting local water and weather conditions;
- better use of manpower in agriculture;
- better forest management.

It thus contributes to the achievement in the zones concerned of the objectives of the common agricultural policy as set out in Article 39(1)(a) and (b) of the EEC Treaty. The measure covers the following French and Italian regions only:

* Report drawn up under Article 10(3) of the Regulation in question.

- France: Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence-Côte d'Azur and Corsica, and the departments of Ardèche and Drôme;
- Italy: the Mezzogiorno, Lazio, Toscana, Liguria, Umbria, Marche, Emilia-Romagna, and the provinces of Cuneo and Alessandria in Piemonte and Pavia in Lombardia.

2. Procedure

The measure is covered by outline programmes drawn up by the Member States concerned for the respective geographical areas in their entirety. The operations are incorporated into special multiannual programmes consisting of one or more capital investment projects to be implemented on public, semi-public or private land, which must fulfil the criteria laid down in the outline programme.

The outline programmes are approved by the Commission after consulting the Standing Committee on Agricultural Structure.

The special programmes receive aid from the EAGGF Guidance Section equivalent to 50% of the cost of the work, subject to a Community ceiling laid down in Article 11(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 269/79. The decision to grant the aid is taken by the Commission after consulting the Standing Committee on Agricultural Structure and the Fund Committee on the financial aspects involved.

The minimum national contribution in public funds is 40% of the costs and the minimum contribution by the landowner is 5%, with certain exceptions.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

Regulation (EEC) No 269/79 entered into force on 17 February 1979 (the third day after its publication in the Official Journal). In accordance with the second paragraph of Article 16, the Regulation took effect three days after the Council amended Regulation (EEC) No 729/70, viz. on 11 May 1979.

The three-year period following its taking effect therefore ended in May 1982.

However, fieldwork on the common forestry measure began much later, once the following two stages had been completed:

1. Approval of outline programmes by the Commission:

- . France: 18 December 1979 (Commission Decision 79/1056/EEC of 29 November 1979^{*});
- . Italy : 16 November 1979 (Commission Decision 79/953/EEC of 26 October 1979^{**}).

2. Receipt and examination of special programmes by the Commission, followed by Commission decision on the granting of EAGGF aid (see table in Annex I) and notification of said decision to the Member States concerned and the public agencies responsible.

In brief: Fieldwork on the common forestry measure which entered into force on 17 January 1979 and took effect on 11 May 1979 really only started in 1980. It will therefore be carried out over the five-year period 1980-84 under Article 10(1) of the Regulation by which it was established. It is currently being implemented in all but one of the regions concerned (the special programme for Puglia is still only at the draft stage).

III. STATE OF PROGRESS

A progress report on work completed and in hand as at mid-1982 was drawn up on the basis of information provided by the Member States concerned (Annex I).

In addition, a special study has been made of the speeding-up of progress over the first few years. Some of the information has been checked on the spot and the following conclusions can be drawn:

1) As at mid-1982 the situation regarding the 184 million ECU entered in the Community budget to finance the fieldwork initially provided for under the common measure was as follows:

- almost one-quarter (23%) corresponded to completed work in respect of which payments are in the process of being made;

* OJ No L 289, 16.11.1979, p. 39.

** OJ No L 322, 18.12.1979, p. 29.

- approximately one third (32%) corresponded to completed work in respect of which advances have been paid and the balance should be settled relatively soon depending on the case in question;
- slightly less than half (45%) corresponded to work due to be commenced in the next few months.

2) Regional progress varied depending on the nature of the operation. Afforestation and associated work were generally the furthest behind (15% and 17% completed and 27% and 24% under-way respectively) with fire protection, construction of forest roads and improvement of deteriorated forest considerably more advanced (20%, 31% and 32% completed and 36%, 35% and 39% under-way respectively).

This situation can be explained by a number of constraints which affected afforestation: the first year the planting period was well under-way by the time it was possible to begin work; the corresponding period the following year was also much shorter on account of the drought in several regions concerned; lastly, in certain regions priority was deliberately given to infrastructure work, which was a relatively important factor in the success of the afforestation.

3) If, in general, the common measure was relatively slow getting under-way, mainly because of the time taken by the very carefully conducted preparatory work, the pace speeded up considerably during the period in question. Actual timing of the work completed by June 1982 was as follows:

Year	France	Italy
1980	8%	10%
1981	50%	50%
mid-1982 (6 months)	42%	40%

From the above data, supplemented by recent information on progress during the second half of 1982, it can be concluded that the work rate has speeded up considerably over the first three years. On

the basis of the above figures, four to five times more work was done in 1981 than in 1980 and eight to ten times more in 1982.

- 4) This acceleration is due primarily to the efforts made by the national and regional forestry authorities involved and to the warm reception given to the common measure by forestry associations and the individuals concerned.

In brief: The limits for the work, as laid down initially, will in all probability be reached well before the end of the period covered by the common measure.

However, most of the work included in the special programmes for the fifth year has been scheduled on the assumption that a positive decision will be taken on the 25% increase provided for in Article 10(3) of Regulation (EEC) No 269/79.

CONCLUSIONS

Examination of progress and speed of work under the common forestry measure during the first three years reveals the following:

- 1) The limits for the amount of work to be done, as set out in Article 11, are likely to be reached by the end of 1983, i.e. one year before expiry of the five-year period covered by the common measure.
- 2) The work programme, which was based from the outset on the possibility of extending the limits under Article 10(3) of Regulation (EEC) No 269/79, would in most cases be brought to an abrupt halt by late 1983 if the financial increase of 25% provided for were not granted. If this were to happen, continuation of the common forestry measure could be irreversibly jeopardized.
- 3) If the measure's objectives are to be achieved in full and progress is not to be disrupted, it is essential that an official decision be taken as soon as possible to grant the increase allowed under the Regulation. To this end the Commission is proposing that the Council increase the limits of the common measure by 25% and enter the corresponding amounts in the 1984 budget (see proposal for a Council Regulation, Annex II). This increase is covered in the EAGGF Guidance Section's five-year endowment for the period 1980-84.

ANNEX I

State of progress on forestry work
under Regulation (EEC) No 269/79
as at mid-1982

NATURE OF WORK	UNITS	LIMITS UNDER ARTICLE 11(2)	FORESTRY WORK						
			COMPLETED			UNDER-WAY			PENDING
			Total	France	Italy	Total	France	Italy	Total
Afforestation	ha %	88 000 100	13 480 15	4 480 /////	9 000 /////	23 795 27	13 789 /////	10 006 /////	50 725 58
Improvement of deteriorated forest	ha %	96 000 100	30 760 32	2 563 /////	28 197 /////	37 081 39	12 293 /////	24 788 /////	28 159 29
Associated work (terracing, soil stabilization, ...)	ha %	80 000 100	13 568 17	2 215 /////	11 353 /////	19 437 24	8 618 /////	10 819 /////	46 995 59
Fire protection	ha %	200 000 100	40 227 20	5 667 /////	34 560 /////	71 463 36	33 391 /////	38 072 /////	88 310 44
Construction of forest roads	km %	2 400 100	748 31	106 /////	642 /////	840 35	443 /////	397 /////	812 34

* Estimate by category of work based on information provided by the Member States.

N.B. In cases where a global percentage for completion has been given for a specific programme, this percentage has been applied systematically to each of the categories of work involved.

ANNEX II

Proposal for a
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increasing by 25 % the limits for the amount of work
to be done as set out in Article 11(2) of Regulation
(EEC) N° 269/79 establishing a common measure for forestry
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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) N° 269/79 of 6 February 1979
establishing a common measure for forestry in certain Mediterranean zones
of the Community,⁽¹⁾ and in particular Article 10(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas under Article 10(3) of Regulation N° 269/79 the Council, on a pro-
posal from the Commission, is to review the state of progress three years
from the date on which the Regulation took effect; whereas, if the review
reveals that the limits for the amount of work to be done as set out in
Article 11 are likely to be reached before expiry of the five-year period
(period covered by the common measure), those limits may be increased by
a maximum of 25 %, with a corresponding increase of the common measure;

Whereas three years have now elapsed since the Regulation took effect and
the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, has carried out the requi-
red review, which has revealed that the limits for the amount of work to
be done are likely to be reached before the end of the five-year period
covered by the common measure, namely the end of 1984;

Whereas in order fully to reach its objectives the common measure should
continue until the appointed time, steadily and smoothly; whereas the
limits laid down must accordingly be increased by the maximum provided
for in Article 10(3);

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

./. .

(1) OJ No L 38, 14.2.1979, p. 1

Article 1

The limits specified in Article 11(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 269/79 are hereby increased by 25%.

The estimated cost to the Fund of the common measure laid down in Article 10(2) is hereby increased from 184 million ECU to 230 million ECU.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Date : 13 January 1983

1. BUDGET HEADING : Item 3210

APPROPRIATIONS : AC - 40 MECU
(1983) AP - 28.3 MECU

2. TITLE : Regulation increasing by 25% the limits for the amount of work to be done as set out in Article 11(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 269/79 of 6 February 1979 establishing a common measure for forestry in certain Mediterranean zones of the Community

3. LEGAL BASIS : Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 269/79

4. AIMS OF PROJECT : To increase the limits for the amount of work covered by the common measure established by Regulation (EEC) No 269/79, as provided for in Article 10(3) thereof.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (AC in million ECU)	PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS	CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR (1983)	FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR (1984)
5.0 EXPENDITURE			
- CHARGED TO THE EC BUDGET (REFUNDS/INTERVENTIONS)		-	46
- NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION		-	46
- OTHER		-	
5.1 RECEIPTS			
- OWN RESOURCES OF THE EC (LEVIES/CUSTOMS DUTIES)		-	-
- NATIONAL		-	-
	1985	1986	
5.0.1 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	-	-	
5.1.1 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	-	-	

5.2 METHOD OF CALCULATION 25% increase in volume of work, i.e.:

- afforestation: 22 000 ha x 1 700 ECU = 37.4 million ECU
- improvement of deteriorated forest: 24 000 ha x 1 250 ECU = 30 million ECU
- associated work: 20 000 ha x 750 ECU = 15 million ECU
- fire protection: 50 000 ha x 40 ECU = 2 million ECU
- construction of forest roads: 600 km x 10 000 ECU = 6 million ECU
- preparatory work: 1.5 million ECU

giving a total of 92 million ECU, of which the EAGGF will reimburse 50%:
92 million ECU x 50% = 46 million ECU

6.0 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED FROM APPROPRIATIONS ENTERED IN THE RELEVANT CHAPTER OF THE CURRENT BUDGET ?

YES

6.1 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED BY TRANSFER BETWEEN CHAPTERS OF THE CURRENT BUDGET ?

YES

6.2 IS A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BE NECESSARY ?

YES

6.3 WILL FUTURE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS BE NECESSARY ?

YES

OBSERVATIONS : On the basis of past experience the rate of payments should be as follows:

1984	1985	1986	1987
6.9	18.4	13.8	6.9

