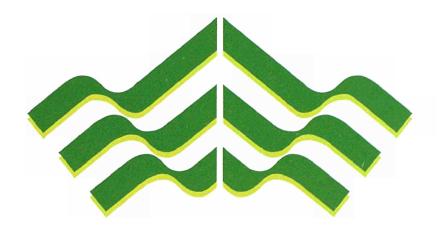
COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRAMEWORK 1991-93

Processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products (Objective 5a)

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

(excluding the five new Länder)





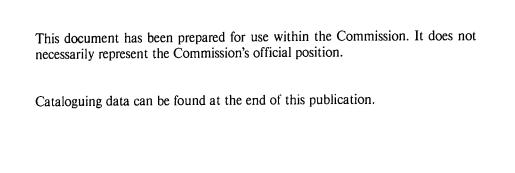


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Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1992

ISBN 92-826-3949-5

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Printed in Germany

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Introduction by Mr Marín,

Vice-President of the Commission and Member responsible for fisheries

The Community support frameworks (CSFs) provide the context within which the Member States can apply to the Commission for finance.

The CSFs in the processing and marketing sectors for fish and aquaculture products are linked to achievement of Objective 5a of the reform of the structural Funds.

This part of the fishing industry is among those economic activities to benefit from the Single European Act. The underlying principles governing the reform of the Funds — concentration, partnership, mutually consistent policies, programming, additionality — also apply to these sectors.

The priority schemes for regions whose development is lagging behind come under the CSFs for Objective 1 of the reform. All assistance to the former territory of the German Democratic Republic is covered by a CSF especially for the new *Länder*, to be published separately.

The 11 CSFs (Luxembourg has not submitted a sectoral plan) represent a nominal financial commitment on the Community's part of some ECU 180 million in the years 1991 to 1993, which is one and a half times the amount of aid granted during the years before the reform.

The processing and marketing of fish and aquaculture products represent important sectors in the economic activity of certain regions and developing them contributes to economic and social cohesion.

The regions concerned are having to meet the challenges of an increasingly fierce competitive climate and major problems involving restructuring and adjustments in the technological and hygiene fields.

The Community's assistance is therefore geared toward:

(i) improving the competitiveness of the sector within the context of completing the internal market and of increased competition from non-member countries;

- (ii) guaranteeing a constant flow of inputs of raw materials;
- (iii) contributing to the application of Community hygiene and public health standards and greater attention to the quality of the environment.

The Member States, in concert with the Commission, are required to implement the various forms of assistance on the basis of the CSFs, particularly through operational programmes.

The first priority for Community assistance is building, modernizing and rationalizing auctions and markets and facilities for preparing and processing fish, developing new products, improving quality and hygiene in production and marketing processes and increasing the value-added of products.

Since individual investment schemes are allowed for in the overall programming, economic agents in the fishing sector will also be able to profit from certain advantages in connection with the processing and marketing of fish and aquaculture products:

- (i) more precise knowledge of the objectives pursued by the Community;
- (ii) greater transparency of Community support;
- (iii) less risk of dissipation of funds;
- (iv) better monitoring and evaluation of the actual impact of the assistance.

It is to be hoped that all the structural measures relating to the fishing and aquaculture sector — including those concerning fishing fleets — will be incorporated in the Community's structural instruments in the near future.

Manuel Marin

Objectives of the structural Funds

Community action through the structural Funds, the EIB and other existing financial instruments shall support the achievement of the general objectives set out in Articles 130a and 130c of the Treaty by contributing to the attainment of the following five priority objectives:

- 1. promoting the development and structural adjustment of the regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1);
- 2. converting the regions, frontier regions or parts of regions (including employment areas and urban communities) seriously affected by industrial decline (Objective 2);
- 3. combating long-term unemployment (Objective 3);
- 4. facilitating the occupational integration of young people (Objective 4);
- 5. with a view to reform of the common agricultural policy:
 - (a) speeding up the adjustment of agricultural structures (Objective 5a),
 - (b) promoting the development of rural areas (Objective 5b).



1. General economic background

1.1. General

The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) has a short coastline. The fishing fleet, traditionally oriented towards fishing in foreign waters, depends on cooperation with other countries. The FRG has been experiencing a decrease in catches and landings of wetfish and frozen fish in quantity terms since the early 1980s. Reduced fishing opportunities were accompanied by a continued withdrawal of fleet capacity in accordance with the European Community's common fisheries policy. In the wake of generally increased domestic demand, imports of fresh raw materials have been rising throughout the 1980s.

Fishing represents only a small share of national GDP. On a regional basis the contribution is higher in the four coastal Länder. About 2 254 people are employed in the fleet, 9 860 in the processing sector and 9 866 in the wholesale and retail trades. German landings in the three main ports (Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven and Hamburg) registered in 1989 amounted to 148 205 tonnes (DM 284 706 000 or ECU 138 million), foreign landings amounted to 60 551 tonnes (DM 263 575 000 or ECU 128 million). The value of imports increased by more than 60% from 1979 to 1988. A breakdown of imports by main fishery commodity groups shows that Germany is particularly dependent on fresh chilled and frozen fish, canned fish, and fish meal of foreign origin. Although domestic demand suffered a severe setback in 1987, when public discussion on nematodes in fish and pollution of the North and Baltic Seas lead to a sudden decrease of per capita consumption, total apparent consumption (catches - nonfood uses + imports - exports) steadily increased during the whole period 1985-90. Consumption of fish per capita rose accordingly and in 1989 even slightly exceeded the pre-1987 level of 13.2 kg by 0.2 kg. Since in 1984-86 consumption was only 10.4 kg, Germany seems to be on her way to becoming an increasingly important market for fish products in the EC. There continues to be room for more per capita consumption to catch up with the EC average.

Profitability of the fishing sector benefited from the following: relatively low fuel prices during the period 1986-89; a reduction in total fleet capacity; the expansion of aquaculture and a continuously growing domestic demand. Although the nematode crisis did not have long-term effects on profitability, it forced the German fisheries industry to quickly adapt product quality (in terms of improved hygiene) to the consumer's preferences.

This Community support framework (CSF) for the FRG does not include the fisheries sector of the former German Democratic Republic.

1.2. Fishing fleet

German fishermen have access to fish stocks in national waters, EC waters in the North and Baltic Seas. Furthermore, Germany has taken up opportunities offered by Community fishing agreements in Sweden, Norway, the Faeroe Islands, and Greenland.

The capacity of the German fleet consists of 46 trawlers (10 long-distance trawlers, 1 shoal species trawler, and 35 middle water trawlers), 517 cutters and 255 smaller vessels.

In line with Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 the German multiannual guidance programme for the evolution of the fishing fleet has established objectives in terms of engine power and vessel tonnage for the reduction of the capacity of the fishing fleet. The German authorities are meeting their intermediate objectives.

As far as the utilization of German cutters is concerned, almost half of them are engaged in shrimp fishing.

1.3. Aquaculture

Onshore fish-farming (mainly freshwater rearing of trout and carp, to a lesser extent of eel) is a small subsector in terms of quantity (13% of overall production), although significant in terms of value (33% of the total income of fish production). Offshore shellfish production, particularly of mussels, developed a certain economic importance. Geographical and environmental conditions do not seem to support a further expansion of intensive aquaculture, although aquaculture products should have excellent prospects in terms of prices and demand in Germany.

In 1987, trout constituted the dominant species (15 000 tonnes), followed by carp (6 100 tonnes).

Scope for improvements can be seen in the modernization of aquaculture installations (including processing). Recent shifts in demand indicate that the preference for carp is diminishing and that in the future a profitable production of carp will be dependent on successful product diversification and other marketing strategies. On the other hand, the

introduction of new species along with further processing and marketing efforts would seem to be beneficial.

Efforts to achieve higher onshore water quality have been relatively successful, with the average quality of water improving in the late 1980s. The legal framework for water management in Germany sets high standards for intensive forms of aquaculture. Firms active in aquaculture are required to implement effluent treatment systems.

1.4. Processing and marketing

1.4.1. Processing

There are 186 firms in the German processing sector. Although concentration in this highly competitive industry has taken place in the 1980s, total sales expanded continuously, along with labour productivity. Products are mainly oriented toward the domestic market, with exports (three quarters of which go to other EC member countries) accounting for only a minor share of production. Major firms (28) supply a wide variety of products of different processing intensity, ranging from fresh fish to ready-to-serve frozen fish meals. Small firms (95), often vertically integrated and linked to aquaculture, usually specialize in only a few products.

In terms of sales, frozen fish, marinades, smoked fish and canned fish continue to dominate, although demand developments in the 1980s contributed to a loss of market shares of fresh fillets, salted fish, canned fish and marinades, and to an expansion of market shares of higher quality and higher value products such as, for example, frozen fillets, molluscs and crustaceans, anchovy and fish salads.

In general, the supplies of raw materials from German catches drastically decreased and imports from other EC member countries and third countries continued to rise substantially, reaching some 80% of raw material supply to the processing sector. In 1990, main imports consisted of fresh (chilled) herring, redfish and cod from Denmark, Iceland and Greenland; frozen herring, mackerel and halibut from Canada, The Netherlands and Iceland; saithe, hake and pollock from Norway and Poland. Further processed products were bought from The Netherlands, Iceland, and other third countries. For the processing of fresh fish and molluscs and crustaceans about half of the needed input has to be bought abroad.

As the nematode crisis demonstrated, the German fish processing industry is in a position to bring about major short-term adjustments to abrupt shifts in demand. In spite of its seemingly general dynamism and flexibility, the industry is not homogeneous. A major number of small and medium-sized firms present serious deficiencies, as also do firms engaged in shrimp peeling and in the processing of aquaculture species. Small-scale fish processors often do not achieve hygiene and public health standards. Further, in many cases productivity is not developing

satisfactorily due to obsolete technology. Shrimp peeling is continued to be done mostly by homeworkers. The enforcement of hygiene and public health standards in shrimp peeling is thus extremely difficult, if not impossible. The alternative to this traditional procedure would be to invest in shrimp peeling machines. Since demand for shrimp meat is on the rise (as opposed to the demand for unpeeled shrimps which is bound to decrease), also a partial capacity problem has to be solved. Both problems could be solved by establishing shrimp peeling centres owned by cooperatives, equipped with the adequate facilities and complying with hygiene standards.

With respect to aquaculture, mainly onshore fish-farming, this subsector in Germany has hitherto chosen to supply live and fresh fish; only a marginal volume of aquaculture production is processed. Since revenues from live and fresh fish have been falling (particularly carp sales) the subsector will have to adapt its species mix to demand changes and to transform an increasing part of production into products with higher value-added. Existing processing plants, generally integrated into fish farming installations, were found to embody obsolete technology and to present poor hygiene conditions.

Fish and fish products are marketed in Germany:

- (i) either directly by a few major vertically integrated firms with own retail stores/restaurants; or
- (ii) through wholesale and retail firms dealing exclusively with fish and fish products; or
- (iii) through wholesale and retail firms dealing with a variety of food products.

The role of general food product firms is to market canned fish, marinades and especially frozen (ready-to-serve) fish products. Fresh and live fish is mostly handled by the specialized trade. Aquaculture products are usually marketed directly by vertically integrated companies and sold in specialized retail firms and in the food products trade. Although it can be acknowledged that new marketing units and a certain degree of concentration could contribute to higher efficiency in this sector, no major weaknesses can be identified.

1.4.2. Marketing

The three major ports (Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven, Hamburg) are endowed with public auctioning markets which also begin to show excess capacity problems. Two thirds of landings arrive in Bremerhaven, most of the rest in Cuxhaven and only a small share in Hamburg and in a great deal of other smaller ports. The importance of Bremerhaven lies in the location of the frozen fish processing industry in this city. In many cases, German auction halls still have to meet the EC's hygiene and public health standards. In only a few landing sites idle capacities in some of the facilities can be observed. Chilling facilities are run by cooperatives and private companies; the existence of unprofitable chilling capacity has not been reported.

1.4.3. Conclusion

The main strengths and weaknesses of the German processing industry are:

- (i) high and still increasing dependence on imported raw materials,
- (ii) generally, the processing industry is modern and competitive, with the exception of some small and medium-sized firms;
- (iii) quality and hygiene conditions require further improvement, particularly in public processing and packaging halls (Seefischmärkte), shrimp peeling and aquaculture;
- (iv) some improvements are necessary in the auction halls in order to comply with hygiene and public health standards;
- (v) strong and expanding domestic market.



2. Priority axes for common action

2.1. Priority axes

On the basis of the strengths and weaknesses of the sector, the Commission and the German authorities have agreed, within the framework of partnership, the following priority axes for granting Community aid.

The two axes are:

Axis 1 — processing;

Axis 2 — marketing.

2.1.1. Axis 1 — processing

The following three measures will be undertaken within the processing axis.

Measure 1 — improvement of hygiene and public health standards

An improvement of hygiene conditions and compliance with public health standards will contribute to increasing the quality and value of a series of fish products. In particular, this measure is foreseen for:

- (a) public processing and packaging halls (Seefischmärkte),
- (b) shrimp peeling installations,
- (c) aquaculture installations.

Measure 2 — improvement of productivity of fish processing

Increasing productivity through necessary investments in modern technology will offer new possibilities for product diversification, value-added, and product presentation, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of German fish products. This measure shall apply to:

- (a) fish processing installations,
- (b) public processing and packaging halls (Seefischmärkte).

Measure 3 — pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance, studies

Where investments involve pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance and studies will be carried out to support the processing axis.

2.1.2. Axis 2 — marketing

Measure 1 — improvement of hygiene and public health standards

Investments, in particular in auction halls, will be supported in those cases in which it can be demonstrated that the EC's hygiene and public health standards are not met.

Measure 2 — pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance, studies

Where investments involve pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance and studies will be carried out to support the marketing axis.

2.2. Coordination with other Community aid

2.2.1. Common fisheries policy

The actions foreseen in this CSF must conform with the objectives of the common fisheries policy (CFP). The implementation of this policy consists of measures with a view to speeding up the adjustment of fisheries and aquaculture structures which include:

- (i) Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- (ii) Regulation (EEC) No 3252/87 concerning the coordination and promotion of research in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The coherence between the actions foreseen in this CSF and the above measures will be ensured during their examination and implementation.

2.2.2. Other objectives of the reform of the structural Funds

As part of the reform of the structural Funds other CSFs under Objectives 2, 3 and 4 as well as 5b have been adopted. In order to ensure economic and social cohesion, priority will be given, where appropriate, to actions within this CSF which complement and integrate with other CSFs.

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3. Forms of intervention

3.1. Forms of assistance

According to Regulation (EEC) No 4042/89 the Community intervention will take one or several of the following forms:

- (i) operational programmes,
- (ii) global grants,
- (iii) suitable projects,

(iv) pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance and studies.

Operational programmes will be the main form of assistance.

3.2. Rates of finance

The grant rate for financing all forms of assistance will be up to 30% of eligible costs.



4. Indicative financing plan

The amounts shown in the CSF financing tables are those agreed between the Commission and the German Government. The figures relate to the period 1991-93. The tables contain commitments made under the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guidance Section, part of the structural Funds and are in line with Objective 5a of the reform of the structural Funds and also Regulation (EEC) No 4042/89 for the improvement of conditions under which fishery and aquaculture products are processed and marketed.

The indicative financing plan expressed in ecus at 1991 prices is presented in the form of two tables:

Table 1 shows funding by priority axis;

Table 2 shows funding by year.

European Investment Bank (EIB)

Concerning the possible participation of the EIB, the loan packages are not estimated at this stage, the actual amounts of loans being dependent on the projects to be submitted by the promoters with the consent of national authorities concerned and the approval of the EIB organs.

Whenever appropriate the EIB is prepared to approve, on the basis of its customary criteria, applications for loans for eligible investments not provided for in the CSF.

Table 1 Indicative financing plan by priority axis and existing commitments (1991-93)

At 1991 prices

(1 000 ECU)

Priority axis	Total cost ¹	Public expenditure										
			Community grants					National co	Private sector	Community loans		
			Total EEC	EAGGF	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities	Other		EIB3
	I	2=3+7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10	8	9	10	11	12
New actions 1. Processing 2. Marketing	46 800 5 200	11 700 1 300	9 360 1 040	9 360 1 040	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	2 340 260	2 340 260	<u>-</u>	_	35 100 3 900	
New actions Subtotal	52 000	13 000	10 400	10 400	_		2 600	2 600	 -		39 000	(t. e.)
Existing commitments (t.e.)	_	_			_			_	_	_	_	
Existing commitments Subtotal	_		_	_		_	_		_	_	_	
Total	52 000	13 000	10 400	10 400	_		2 600	2 600			39 000	(t. e.)

Only including investments which are planned for co-financing under this Community support framework.
 Breakdown between State/regionsothers will be decided later.

t.e.: token entry.

³ Participation of the EIB will be decided later.

Table 2 Indicative financing plan by year (1991-93)

At 1991 prices

(1 000 ECU)

		Total cost ¹	Public expenditure												
	:		Total cost ¹			Total	Community grants				National contribution ²				Private sector
	0331		public expenditure	Total EEC	EAGGF	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities	Other	Sociol	EIB ³		
		1	2=3 + 7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10	8	9	10	11	12		
1991 1992 1993		15 000 18 500 18 500	3 750 4 625 4 625	3 000 3 700 3 700	3 000 3 700 3 700		_ _ _	750 925 925	750 925 925	 	 	11 250 13 875 13 875			
	Total	52 000	13 000	10 400	10 400	_	<u> </u>	2 600	2 600	_	<u> </u>	39 000	(t. e.)		

Only including investments which are planned for co-financing under this Community support framework.

Breakdown between State/regions/others will be decided later.

t.e.: token entry.

³ Participation of the EIB will be decided later.



5. Community policy and additionality

5.1. Coordination and compliance with Community policies

5.1.1. Rules on competition

For the Community to part-finance national aids, the Commission must have approved such aid in accordance with Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty.

When Member States send their applications for assistance (operational programmes, aid schemes or global grants or projects, as the case may be) in connection with Objective 5a to the Commission, they must identify, in those applications, the measures which constitute aid (aid schemes or *ad hoc* aid measures). At the same time, they must notify the Commission (Secretariat-General), in accordance with Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty, of any aid measure not yet notified and not yet approved by the Commission whether it involves a new aid measure or modification of an existing aid measure.

As these aids are to be examined simultaneously with the grant applications, the Commission intends to adopt a position on them, and on any amendments made to them by the Member State, when it decides on the grant application.

As regards, in particular, aids in regions which are currently not eligible for national regional aid, a double examination will be undertaken by the Commission, in order to ensure coherency between regional policy and competition policy.

5.1.2. Award of public contracts

Invitations to tender for the award of public contracts must be issued in accordance with the directives governing public supply and works contracts and, in future, when similar directives are required to be implemented for a certain number of those services and sectors currently excluded.

The criteria governing the monitoring of compliance with public procurement rules in the case of projects and programmes financed by the structural Funds and financial instruments are set out in Commission Notice C (88) 2510 of 4 May 1988 to the Member States (OJ C 22, 28. 1. 1989).

5.1.3. Protection of the environment

The measures taken in the course of implementing the CSF must satisfy the conditions laid down by European Community legislation on the environment. Where gaps are found to exist in its implementation, priority must be given to the attainment of the objectives of the legislation in question during the period covered by the CSF in so far as such legislation relates to the development measure envisaged.

Where operations or measures are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, the Member States will, in accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, provide the Commission with appropriate information to enable it to assess the environmental impact of the operations or measures concerned.

The CSF includes assistance directly relating to the protection and development of the environmental resources of the regions concerned and so contributing to Community policy in that field.

5.1.4. Completion of the single market

The activities of the Funds, the EIB and the other Community financial instruments should, in accordance with their priority objectives, help to strengthen the local economic base by ensuring that firms, in particular small and medium-sized firms, have at their disposal a range of financial and other services to enable them to prepare for the challenge of the single market (e. g. awareness of the opening-up of the public procurement markets, product testing and certification infrastructures) and, in that context, for the abolition of intra-Community frontiers in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

5.1.5. Agriculture

Measures under this CSF must be compatible with the objectives of the common agricultural policy. Consistency between the measures under this CSF and the objectives referred to above will be ensured at the examination and implementation stages.

5.1.6. Social policy: equality of opportunities for men and women

The actions under this CSF must conform with, and where appropriate contribute to, the implementation of Community policy and legislation relating to equality of opportunity for women and men. In particular, consideration must be given to infrastructure requirements which facilitate participation in the labour force by people with children.

5.1.7. Research and technological development, information and telecommunications technologies, transfer of technologies

Local development depends in large part on the transfer of technological innovation. From this point of view, stronger links between those active in development at local level and those engaged in research are very important, particularly with regard to the biotechnologies, the environment and the new information technologies. The telecommunications networks now being installed will assist the dissemination of information, and measures to support demand are likely.

5.1.8. Energy

To the extent that the CSF concerns the energy sector, the related actions shall be in conformity with Community policy in that sector.

The new Community programme, Thermie, enables actions concerning demonstration projects to continue.

5.2. Additionality

As laid down in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, the Commission and the Member State, in establishing and implementing the CSFs, must ensure that the increase in the appropriations for the Funds provided for in Article 12(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 has a genuine additional economic impact (...) and results in at least an equivalent increase in the total volume of official or similar (Community and national) structural aid in the Member State concerned, taking into account the macroeconomic circumstances in which the funding takes place.

By agreeing to this CSF, the Member State also confirms its commitment to this legal obligation. The Commission will check implementation of this commitment on a regular basis by undertaking a periodic assessment of additionality throughout the period of implementation of the CSFs.

6. Implementing provisions

6.1. Monitoring and control

6.1.1. Implementation

In the framework of the partnership, the Member State, the implementing authorities designated by the Member State and the Commission (hereinafter 'the partners') shall strive to obtain the desired economic impact by a full and proper use of the financial resources provided for in this CSF.

To this end, the partners:

- (i) shall define precisely responsibilities at Community, national, regional and local level;
- shall with the aid of a jointly agreed monitoring and evaluation system, ensure:
 - the transparency of management, and its strengthening where necessary;
 - good management information, facilitating decisions required to implement the CSF as approved, or to amend it where necessary;
 - an effective use of technical assistance, if required.

The definition of responsibilities

Within 60 days of the adoption of this CSF, the Member State shall designate or confirm the designation of the authority which is to have overall responsibility for the effective management of the implementation of this CSF.

The designated authority shall ensure that specific responsibilities for each implementing, coordinating and controlling activity are clearly defined, and that instructions are given to discharge these responsibilities correctly.

The responsibility of this designated authority concerns in particular:

- the proposal of methods of ex-ante evaluation used by the Member State in drawing up proposals for Community intervention;
- the proposal of methods and procedures for defining, selecting and implementing individual actions or projects to be financed in the framework of operational programmes, aid schemes or global grants or loans after approval by the European Community;
- (iii) ensuring the compliance with Community policies;

- (iv) the follow-up of financial flows to implementing agencies to ensure the timely availability of Community and national resources;
- (v) the designation of mechanisms to prevent and detect any irregularities in the use of public finance;
- (vi) ensuring that the final beneficiaries of development programmes are fully aware of the opportunities available to them and of the contribution of the European Community to the development effort.

The Commission shall include a commentary on these matters in the reports foreseen under Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88.

Within 60 days of the adoption of this CSF, the Member State shall designate or confirm the designation of the authority responsible for meeting its obligations as regards financial control under Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

The Member State shall submit to the Commission with the application for an operational programme a description of the management and control system of the programme as well as the necessary information on the administrative and judicial arrangements set in place to ensure the respect of its obligation regarding financial control.

6.1.2. Monitoring, indicators and evaluation

6.1.2.1. Monitoring committee

A Monitoring Committee, organized in the context of the partnership, shall monitor the CSF as well as the forms of assistance outlined in this CSF.

The tasks of this Monitoring Committee shall be, among others:

- (i) to coordinate all structural operations implemented within this CSF by the regional and central authorities of the Member State as well as the grant and loan instruments of the Communities, and to harmonize them with other Community policies, with a view to achieving the strategic objectives of the CSF;
- (ii) to evaluate regularly the progress made with the implementation of the CSF;
- (iii) to analyse proposals for possible modifications of the CSF.

The Monitoring Committee shall also adopt, on proposal of the authority responsible for the overall implementation of the CSF:

- (i) the methods of *ex-ante* evaluation of proposals for Community intervention;
- (ii) the methods and procedures for defining, selecting and implementing individual actions or projects to be financed under the different forms of assistance.

In the framework of partnership, the Monitoring Committee will be composed of the Commission, the EIB and Member State representatives, including, where appropriate, representatives of the competent authorities designated by the Member State at local, regional, national or any other level. The Monitoring Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure, including any appropriate organizational arrangements.

The Committee may meet at the initiative of either the Commission or the Member State concerned. The frequency of the meetings of the Monitoring Committee shall, as a general rule, be once or twice every year or more often if necessary.

The Member State, the Commission and the EIB shall designate their representatives in the Monitoring Committee, 60 days (at the latest) after notification to the Member State of the Commission decision approving the CSF.

The Chairman of the Monitoring Committee will be designated by the Member State. The implementing authority shall provide the Secretariat to the Monitoring Committee.

6.1.2.2. Indicators

In order to make possible the monitoring and evaluation of operations, the Monitoring Committee is responsible for the compilation of data on financial, physical implementation and performance indicators. The partners will jointly agree the detailed specification of the reporting system.

(a) Financial indicators

The financial indicators for each year of execution shall relate to commitments, payments; indicatively planned expenditure for multiannual operations (budget) as well as changes in the financial execution of operations, all broken down by:

- fund or loan instrument for the Community sources and for each form of assistance within each priority;
- (ii) public contributions (from central, regional or local authorities), as well as private expenditure for each form of intervention within each priority.

(b) Physical implementation and performance indicators

The following will be established:

- physical implementation indicators (where relevant) to allow assessment of the degree of implementation of planned operations;
- (ii) performance indicators, which aim to measure the degree of achievement of the objectives of structural operations as well as their indirect socio-economic effects.

The definition and the collection of all types of indicators shall be the object of a joint effort by the partnership. The same indicators will also be used, in so far as possible, for monitoring the progress made with the different forms of assistance planned under the CSF.

6.1.2.3. Evaluation

(a) Ex-ante assessment

The presentation of the various forms of intervention shall be accompanied by an *ex-ante* assessment, which shall be undertaken by the Member States, with a view to:

- (i) assessing the compatibility of interventions with the CSF;
- (ii) assessing the existence of adequate implementation and management structures;
- (iii) assessing the articulation of structural operations with other Community policies, the combination of grants and loans, as well as their economic soundness and viability of the operations.

For its part the Commission reserves the right to make its own assessment of these issues.

(b) Ex-post evaluation

Ex-post evaluation shall be undertaken in respect of the CSF as well as the individual operations. A method for carrying out this task will be established by the partnership and will take account of the results of the constant monitoring of operations by the Monitoring Committee.

6.1.3. Progress reports for the implementation of operations

The reports which the authority designated by the Member State shall send to the Commission shall be established in a standardized form to be jointly defined (for multiannual operations lasting less than two years).

The final reports shall include a first provisional evaluation of the operation concerned, according to the guidelines which will have been agreed upon by the Commission and the Member State concerned.

6.1.4. Procedures for the modification of a CSF

According to the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88, the CSFs may, if necessary, be revised and adjusted, on the initiative of the Member State or of the Commission in agreement with the Member State, in the light of relevant information and of the results obtained during implementation of the operations concerned.

The principles concerning the modifications of CSFs, established through agreement between the Member State and the Commission with a view to allowing their flexible implementation, are listed below.

- (a) The following modifications can be decided by the Monitoring Committee(s):
 - (i) variations between priorities compared to the initial estimates included in the indicative financing plan of not more than 15% of each separate priority for the whole of the period, or 20% for one financial year. The variations must remain compatible with the Commission's budgetary rules and procedures and must not affect the total amount of assistance of the Fund;
 - (ii) other minor modifications concerning the implementation of actions, with the exception of the provisions concerning aid schemes.

The Commission and the Member State shall be informed of the decisions to adopt these modifications. They shall be valid unless, within a period of 20 working days following the date of receipt by the Commission or by the Member State of the information, the Commission or the Member State has requested the suspension of that modification.

If necessary, the Commission and the Member State shall adapt their decisions approving the operations concerned.

- (b) The following modifications can be adopted by the Commission, in agreement with the Member State:
 - (i) modifications going beyond the thresholds of 15% and 20% defined in (a) but not beyond 25%;
 - (ii) transfers of Community resources between forms of assistance within a CSF up to 25 % of the total Community allocation anticipated.
- (c) Other modifications require a revision of the CSF following the same procedures applied for its adoption.

Provisions relating to the modification of individual operations during implementation are included in decisions approving such operations.

6.2. Information and publicity

The Member State, the entities responsible for the implementation of the CSF and the Commission will decide on the information and publicity measures to be undertaken for actions benefiting from Community financial support on the basis of the principles set out in Article 32 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

These information and publicity measures shall be determined in the context of the individual decisions for the forms of intervention.

6.3. Technical assistance

If required, the partnership shall agree as soon as possible a programme for technical assistance for supporting management, coordination and control, as well as monitoring and evaluation systems of this CSF.



European Communities — Commission

Community support framework — 1991-93

Processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products (Objective 5a)

Federal Republic of Germany

Document

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

ISBN 92-826-3949-5

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 6



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