

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

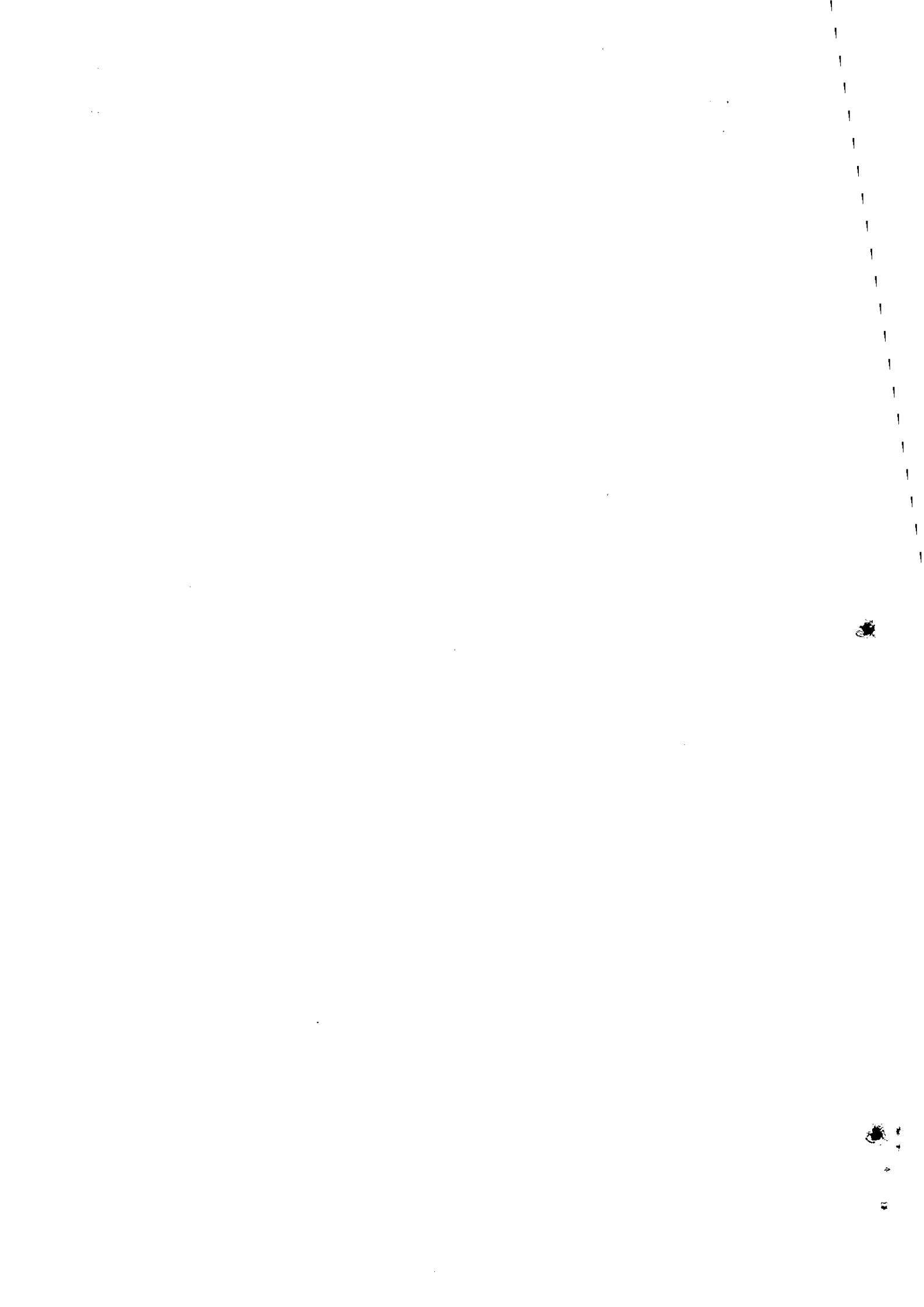
COM(81) 284 final

Brussels, 10 June 1981

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
on a special programme concerning drainage operations in the less favoured
areas of the West of Ireland

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(81) 284 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Directive 78/628/EEC of 19 June 1978 provides for the drainage of a maximum area of 100.000 ha of farmland, plus the arterial drainage of a catchment area extending over 30.000 ha.

Experience with the implementation of the Directive to-date has shown that whereas the field drainage programme has been highly successful, the arterial drainage programme is in danger of coming to a halt because the escalation of costs has already exhausted a substantial part of the funds earmarked for this purpose.

Of the total 100.000 ha to be drained under the field drainage programme 42.000 ha were completed by 1980 while a further 22.000 are on the point of completion. Detailed drainage plans for the remaining 36.000 ha are also nearing completion. It follows therefore that this aspect of the programme is likely to be completed well within the prescribed period of five years.

Under the arterial drainage programme a total of 133 km of river excavation was completed by the end of 1980, while it is expected that a further 113 km will be completed in 1981. This total of 246 km represents no more than 28 % of the total works foreseen in the programme approved under Commission Decision 78/995/EEC of 23 November 1978.

On the other hand, some 72 % of the national budget set aside for this part of the programme has already been exhausted because of the escalation of excavation costs. As a result, the arterial drainage programme cannot be accomplished within the financial framework envisaged in the programme.

The Commission remains convinced that drainage is one of the most important factors for the improvement of agriculture income in the West of Ireland. It is therefore proposing to launch a special programme for drainage in the less favoured areas of that part of the Community.

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Proposal for a Council Regulation on a special programme concerning drainage operations in the less favoured areas of the West of Ireland.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and particularly its Article 43;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (1);

Whereas the field drainage programme envisaged by Directive 78/628/EEC (2) / of the Council has proved highly successful with the result that roughly two-thirds of the 100.000 ha, being the maximum limit prescribed, has already been almost completed and the drainage plans for the remainder have also been finalised;

Whereas the said Directive provides for a total Community financing of 26 million units of account for the 5-year period of the common measure; whereas because of the escalation of river excavation costs which has taken place under the arterial drainage programme this amount has proved to be entirely insufficient; whereas, as a result of this lack of finance the arterial drainage programme cannot be completed;

Whereas, however, there is urgent need for improving the conditions of agricultural production in additional less favoured areas of the West of Ireland within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less favoured areas (3); whereas provision of drainage is a necessary means to such improvement within a relatively short time; whereas therefore a special programme for drainage should be launched immediately to extend over a 5-year period;

Whereas the Community should participate in the financing of this special measure;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

(1)

(2) OJ n° L 206, 29.7.1978, p. 5

(3) OJ No L 128, 19.5.1975, p. 1

Article 1

1. In order to improve the conditions of agricultural production in certain areas of Ireland a special measure for the drainage of farmland in the less favoured areas of the West of Ireland is hereby established.
2. The measure referred to in paragraph 1 shall consist of a programme of field and arterial drainage.

Article 2

1. Field drainage, as referred to in Article 1 (2) shall extend to not more than 50.000 ha. Arterial drainage shall be limited to an eligible expenditure of not more than 30 MECU.
2. The expenditure on arterial drainage referred to in paragraph 1 may serve to complete works already foreseen within the framework of Directive 78/628/EEC on a programme to accelerate drainage operations in the less favoured areas of the West of Ireland (1).

Article 3

1. The expenditure by the Community on the measure referred to in Article 1 (1) shall be limited to 50 % of the expenditure by the Member State. However, the Community contribution to field drainage may not exceed 425 ECU per hectare.
2. This measure shall cease on 31 December 1986.

Article 4

1. The provisions of Article 7(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 on the financing of the common agricultural policy shall apply by analogy to Commission decisions in relation to the financing of this measure.
2. Applications for reimbursement shall relate to expenditure by Ireland in the course of one calendar year ^{and} shall be submitted to the Commission before 1 July the following year.

(1) OJ No. L 206, 29.7.78, p. 5

3. Detailed rules for applying this Article shall be adopted by analogy according to the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70.

Article 5

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
The President

ARTEX

1. FIELD DRAINAGE

It is proposed to drain 50.000 hectares at an average public contribution of 600 ECU/ha.
This represents a cost of 30 million ECU. Cost to the Community at

- 50 % is estimated at 15 MECU.

2. ARTERIAL DRAINAGE

It is estimated that this will cost 30 Million ECU of which the Community will reimburse 50 %. Hence the cost to the Community is estimated at 15 MECU.

3. TOTAL COST TO THE COMMUNITY

$$15 + 15 = 30 \text{ MECU.}$$

Thus the annual Community cost is estimated at 6 MECU.