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Summary of FIG structural measures  
to assist the fishing and  
aquaculture industry in Austria

#18231

## European Union aid to the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry in Austria (1994-99)

Despite the absence of a coastline, and thus of a fishing fleet, Austria participates in the measures financed by the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIG) that relate to the development of aquaculture and the processing and marketing of products. Over ECU 2 million (about ATS 26 million) has been made available to Austrian authorities and businesses for the period 1995-99 by the FIG, the most recent of the European Union's Structural Funds.<sup>1</sup>

The priorities of the FIG and its areas of operation were established in partnership between the European Commission and the Austrian authorities in a programming document.

This brochure summarizes:

- (a) the contents and the indicative financing plan of the FIG programme for Austria;
- (b) the origin and the purpose of all the Structural Funds, with special attention to the FIG (page 4).

<sup>1</sup> Practical details of structural aid:  
see page 3.

COE: VI/94

**The common fisheries policy of the European Union**

The common fisheries policy (CFP) is the cornerstone of the Community's fishing industry. It covers all fishing and farming of living aquatic resources, as well as the processing and marketing of fisheries products.

Since the first decisions were adopted in 1970, the CFP has developed progressively into its current form, which has four major aspects:

- (a) the conservation of resources;
- (b) the organization of markets;
- (c) international agreements;
- (d) structural measures (dealt with in this publication).

Additional information on the CFP will be found in the following publications:

*The new common fisheries policy*, Luxembourg, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1994 (in all the Community languages; ISBN: German version: 92-826-7568-8; English version: 92-826-7570-X.)  
'The common fisheries policy' Information file, Brussels, EC Commission, DG XIV, 1994 (in French or English).

These two publications can be obtained from the European Commission, DG XIV-Fisheries, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels  
Fax (32-2) 299 48 17

**Aquaculture in Austria: strengths and weaknesses**

The fisheries industry in Austria is based on traditional breeding of trout, carp and other freshwater species, and on professional lake fishing.

Over the period 1988-93, annual output intended for consumption was between 3 560 and 3 750 tonnes.

The aquaculture sector in Austria employs about 800 people, including 500 part-time workers.

Most businesses are family firms, both in aquaculture and in lake fishing.

Processing provides about 100 jobs.

The production of juveniles is just as important as production for direct consumption. A large proportion of salmon-farmers and some pond-farmers sell between 30 and 50% of their output at the juvenile stage.

Despite a long tradition of fish farming, the sector has been to some extent marginalized in Austria. It has not had as much administrative and technical support as other branches.

The main structural weaknesses affecting the sector are:

- (a) requirements resulting from various environmental rules and regulations;
- (b) the need to improve conditions of public health and hygiene in the establishments, in line with Directives 91/492/EEC and 91/493/EEC;
- (c) insufficient outlets for fisheries products.

# FIFG operations 1994-99: three areas for assistance

In this situation, the structural measures programmed for 1995-99 in Austria in the fisheries and aquaculture sector address problems in three main areas.

## 1. Development of aquaculture

The purpose of this measure is modernization and rationalization of firms, to increase their productivity. It is also intended to contribute financing measures to control communicable diseases of fish, improve quality and hygiene, and exploit new water resources.

**Beneficiaries:** public bodies, private enterprise, producers' associations.

## 2. Processing and marketing of products

It is planned to improve the productivity and profitability of small and medium-sized pond farms, and their conditions of health and hygiene (modernization aid, rationalization and construction aid, etc.).

**Beneficiaries:** private companies.

## 3. Product promotion

Promotion and consumer information measures are planned to encourage consumption of available freshwater species (promotion campaigns, advertising, market studies, product quality certification, etc.).

**Beneficiaries:** public bodies, producers, private companies.

## Access to financing and programming documents

To take part in the measures financed by the FIFG, the potential beneficiaries defined above for each area of assistance should apply to the Ministry at the address given at the end of this publication.

Beneficiaries must submit proposals consistent with the relevant objectives.

The detailed description of the objectives and the contents of each type of measure, summarized here, appear in the document dealing with Structural Fund operations in Austria under Objective 5a – Fisheries for 1994-99.

This document can be requested from the addresses indicated on the last page.

For additional information, see the booklet entitled *The European Community and the fishing industry. Practical guide to structural aid*, Luxembourg, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1994, ISBN (English version) 92-826-7762-1; (German version) 92-826-7760-5.

# Financing of FIFG investment in Austria (1995-99)

(million ECU) <sup>1</sup>

Field of action	FIFG	National public financing	Private financing	Total financing
Aquaculture	1.05	2.78	7.97	11.80
Processing and marketing	0.87	2.32	6.63	9.82
Promotion	0.04	0.11	0.30	0.45
Other measures (studies, pilot projects etc.)	0.04	0.11	0.30	0.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>5.32</b>	<b>16.20</b>	<b>22.52</b>

<sup>1</sup> As a guide, in December 1995 ECU 1 = approximately ATS 13.22.

# The FIFG

## Tasks of the FIFG

To help the fisheries sector solve the problem of overcapacity of the Community fleet.  
To improve the structures of the European fishing and aquaculture industry, and enhance its international competitiveness.

## Areas for action

adjustment of fishing effort;  
modernization of the fleet;  
development of aquaculture;  
protection of marine coastal areas;  
provision of fishing port facilities;  
processing and marketing;  
product promotion;  
socioeconomic measures;  
other measures (technical assistance, etc.).

## Community financing

The Community contribution may be up to 75 % of eligible expenditure in the Structural Funds Objective 1 regions, and up to 50 % in other regions (with ceilings of 50% and 30% respectively for direct productive investment).

## How to apply

It is up to project sponsors to apply to their national or regional authorities to integrate their projects into Community programmes, so that FIFG financing will be available.

### Useful addresses:

#### Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft

Stubenring 1  
A-1012 Vienna  
Tel. (+43-222) 71 10 00  
Fax (+43-222) 711 00 65 07

#### The European Commission Directorate-General XIV — Fisheries

Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Fax (+32-2) 296 30 33



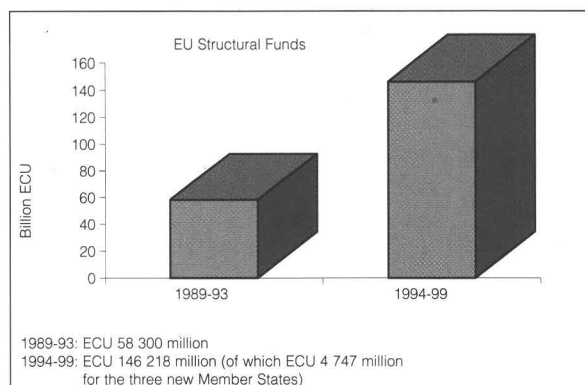
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This publication does not necessarily express the official views of the Commission.

For further information, please send a fax to (+32-2) 296 73 60. A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

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# The EU Structural Funds

To promote harmonious development throughout the European Union, the Single Act of 1987 and the Treaty of Maastricht of 1993 introduced the goal of economic and social cohesion, to be achieved by a concentration of financial aid on six priority objectives:

- Objective 1: structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind;
- Objective 2: converting regions seriously affected by industrial decline;
- Objective 3: combating long-term unemployment, contributing to the occupational integration of young people and of those threatened with exclusion from the labour market;
- Objective 4: facilitating workers' adaptation to industrial changes;
- Objective 5a: speeding up the adjustment of agricultural and fisheries structures;
- Objective 5b: development of rural areas;
- Objective 6: development of areas with low population density.

To achieve these objectives, assistance is available from the EU Structural Funds:

- (i) the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);
- (ii) the European Social Fund (ESF);
- (iii) the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF);
- (iv) the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

Other possible Community sources of financing include Cohesion Fund grants, and European Investment Bank loans.