

Two-thirds of Objective 5(b) programmes adopted

During last December and January, the Commission finally adopted 51 single programming documents (SPDs) for regions including areas eligible under Objective 5(b) (economic diversification of fragile rural areas).

All that remains to complete programming of this Objective is to adopt around twenty SPDs for regions of this type and for the Objective 5(b) areas of the new Member States.

The Commission has still to adopt the final lists of areas in the new Member States eligible under Objective 5(b). On the basis of proposals submitted by Austria and Finland in 1994, it took a decision in principle on 3 January 1995. The areas eligible under Objective 5(b) will cover 28.9% of the population of Austria and 21.5% of that of Finland. The final lists for these two countries and for Sweden will be adopted after the appropriate committee has been consulted.

Region concerned	Total cost ECU million	Contribution from SF ECU million	Region concerned	Total cost ECU million	Contribution from SF ECU million
DK Danmark	201.5	54.0	Midi-Pyrénées	849.9	283.1
D Bayern	2933.4	560.2	Pays de la Loire	328.7	122.0
Hessen	232.3	80.8	Poitou-Charentes	450.8	130.1
Niedersachsen	706.5	245.1	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	277.1	90.7
Rheinland-Pfalz	426.8	111.3	Rhône-Alpes	844.5	169.4
Schleswig-Holstein	229.6	85.9	I Bolzano	157.1	43.0
E Aragón	763.6	298.6	Emilia Romagna	311.6	57.1
Baleares	146.9	46.1	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	273.4	44.0
Cataluña	366.7	148.0	Lazio	514.9	145.7
La Rioja	166.5	38.9	Lombardia	213.8	40.3
Madrid	112.9	49.3	Toscana	744.9	133.0
Navarra	161.0	56.6	Trento	66.0	19.9
País Vasco	81.2	26.5	Umbria	341.9	75.5
F Alsace	163.6	46.5	Valle d'Aosta	13.9	4.2
Aquitaine	762.4	225.3	Veneto	1033.2	145.6
Auvergne	724.7	164.7	L Luxembourg	25.5	6.0
Basse-Normandie	433.4	133.3	NL Friesland	266.9	68.7
Bourgogne	407.6	112.7	Groningen / Drenthe	157.4	34.9
Bretagne	510.6	186.3	Limburg	48.4	19.1
Centre	259.7	84.1	Overijssel	70.2	15.5
Champagne-Ardenne	100.1	29.3	Zeeland	49.2	11.8
Franche-Comté	425.7	74.6	UK East Anglia	132.4	60.0
Haute-Normandie	32.9	11.2	English Northern Uplands	262.3	108.0
Languedoc-Roussillon	344.3	119.9	South West England	514.5	219.0
Limousin	580.8	128.0	Wales	483.4	184.0
Lorraine	304.6	96.8			

New Initiative for Northern Ireland

The Commission is currently preparing a new Community Initiative which will receive ECU 300 million to support the process of reconciliation and economic recovery in Northern Ireland.

Following recent developments in the province (signature of a joint declaration by the Prime Ministers of Ireland and the United Kingdom on 15 December 1993 and the "ceasefire" from July 1994), last August the Commission set up a task force to propose measures that could be taken at Community level to encourage the process of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

In December 1994 the Essen European Council approved the principle of a multiannual programme to run from 1995 to 1999. This will receive an initial Community contribution of ECU 300 for the first three years and apply in Northern Ireland and in the six counties of Ireland which border on Northern Ireland.

Measures financed by this programme will concern primarily urban and rural regeneration, the promotion of employment, cross-border development, social inclusion and industrial development. On the social front, there will be specific measures including the integration of former prisoners, the retraining of the security forces and education for children.

The Commission will shortly launch a new Community Initiative to carry out these measures. Like the other Initiatives under the Structural Funds, the draft notice from the Commission will be sent to Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the Management Committee for the Community Initiatives.

Interreg II - Greece

On 5 January, the Commission approved financing for the first programme to implement the Interreg II Community Initiative. The Structural Funds will contribute ECU 309.8 million towards total expenditure of ECU 492 million on improving cross-border cooperation between the frontier areas of Greece and those of Bulgaria and Albania. The measures to be financed by the programme include not only infrastructure for transport (the via Egnatia),

telecommunications and energy but also projects for cooperation on training, tourism, the environment and local development. The measures carried out in the non-member countries (Albania and Bulgaria) will be part-financed by the Community under the Phare programme.

In brief

North Rhine-Westphalia Europartenariat

The next Europartenariat will be held on 20 and 21 March in Dortmund, Germany. The Europartenariat events are meetings for businessmen organized with support from the Commission to foster cooperation in trade, technology and finance, mainly between small and medium-sized firms.

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European Investment Bank

In 1994 the European Investment Bank devoted over ECU 12 billion (72% of its total loans) to regional development. EIB loans for this purpose were divided by sector as follows: transport 35%; industry, agriculture and services 22%; energy 17%; telecommunications 16%; environment and other infrastructure 10%. In the countries benefitting from the Cohesion Fund, EIB loans accounted for 15% of new capital investment in Portugal, 18% in Greece, 7% in Spain and 9% in Ireland.

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