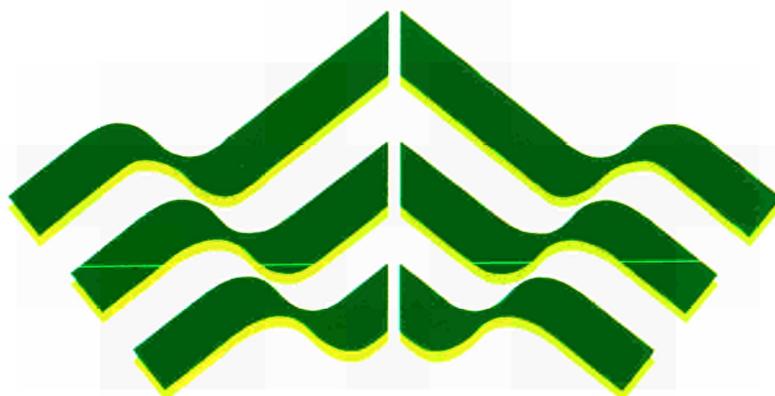


COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRAMEWORK 1991-93

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

THE NETHERLANDS



DOCUMENT

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FRAMEWORK
1991-93**

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This document has been prepared for use within the Commission. It does not necessarily represent the Commission's official position.

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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 the 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 territory of the former German Democratic Republic is covered by a CSF especially for the new *Länder*, to be published separately.

The 11 Community support frameworks (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 fields of technology and hygiene.

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.

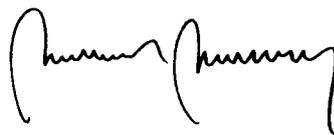
The Member States, in concert with the Commission, are required to implement the various forms of assistance on the basis of the Community support frameworks, particularly through operational programmes.

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 Marín

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 Dutch coast offers varied opportunities for fishing in the high seas, the Waddenzee and in the estuaries. Inland waterways, including the IJsselmeer, are also of interest. In spite of this, the Netherlands has been experiencing a decrease in catches and landings of wet fish and frozen fish in quantity terms since the mid-1980s. In the wake of slow capacity adjustment a mismatch between available capacity and fishing quotas allocated to this country evolved which made fisheries management at the national level increasingly difficult. Falling domestic supplies of raw materials for the export-oriented Dutch fish processing industry had to be compensated for by increasing imports from other EC and third countries.

In 1987 the Netherlands was only second to Denmark as an importing Member State. As an exporter this country was among the first six in the world, with exports reaching 76% of total domestic supply of fish products. The fisheries industry contributes some 0.2% to national income and employs about 15 000 people.

Domestic demand in terms of apparent consumption (catches, non-food uses and imports/exports) also decreased in the second half of the 1980s, with the Netherlands now showing the lowest apparent consumption of fish per capita in the EC, well below the simple average of all 12 EC member countries. Although the profitability of the fishing sector benefited from relatively low fuel prices during the period 1986-89 and from the expansion in mussel production, it was negatively influenced by the particular mix of Dutch catches, about half of which consist of low-priced pelagic species.

1.2. Fishing fleet

Dutch fishermen have access to fish stocks in national waters, the EC's common fishery zone and in third-country waters. These areas, together with the utilized fishing gear, determine to a great extent the mix of the Dutch fleet's catches.

In line with Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 the Dutch 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.

On 1 January 1990 the Dutch fleet, one of the most modern fleets in the world, consisted of 11 trawlers, 602

sea-going cutters, 149 mollusc boats and 400 small boats. The total number of vessels in the Dutch fleet has been reduced.

In 1988 430 000 tonnes of fish were landed in the Netherlands. The value of these landings was HFL 890 900 000 (ECU 382 400 000). Imports of raw materials amounted to 219 700 tonnes valued at HFL 617 500 000 (ECU 265 000 000). Imports of processed products stood at 110 700 tonnes, valued at HFL 393 900 000 (ECU 169 100 000).

1.3. Aquaculture

Shellfish production (mussels, oysters, cockles) is the most important activity in this sub-sector with fish-farming (eel, salmon, salt and freshwater trout, freshwater catfish) being only of marginal importance. Due to climatological conditions most of the fish-farming takes place in closed systems. In 1989, 15 eel farms produced 200 tonnes, 15 catfish farms 700 tonnes, and six trout farms around 230 tonnes (mainly freshwater trout). Output from mollusc fishing was higher in 1990 than in 1987 and 1988 with the dominant mussel production reaching 100 000 tonnes. Oyster banks, for example, have already suffered damage from the disease *Bonamia oestrae*. The natural environment for shellfish production should be protected from diseases associated with shellfish imported from other EC countries by introducing quarantine installations. The ecosystem supporting fish-farming, a fresh-water intensive activity, should be protected by appropriate effluent treatment and the recycling of water.

Basically, aquaculture should have excellent prospects in terms of prices and demand, provided that:

- (i) the new EC hygiene and public health standards are met,
- (ii) quarantine installations are available, and
- (iii) the adverse environmental impact of aquaculture can be avoided.

1.4. Processing and marketing

1.4.1. Processing

Processing activities are of central importance for the export-oriented Dutch fisheries sector. Around 7 000 people

are employed in the processing sector. About 380 firms are engaged in processing. A number of firms are vertically integrated, particularly some of those involved in aquaculture.

Processing firms use fresh raw materials, frozen fish and already processed fish as inputs. A varying share of these inputs is of foreign, particularly EC, origin. Main imports in 1988 were: fresh/chilled herring, mackerel and cod from Denmark and the United Kingdom respectively; frozen herring and saithe from Germany, frozen mackerel from the United Kingdom; cured herring from Denmark and shellfish from Germany.

Processing firms are generally involved in multiple activities but specialized in particular species:

- the frozen pelagic fish industry,
- the herring processing industry,
- the flatfish processing industry,
- the shrimp industry,
- the mollusc processing industry,
- other activities (smoking pelagic species and freshwater fish).

The frozen pelagic industry is vertically integrated and includes large freezer trawlers, cold stores, plus own smoking, marinating, canning and curing facilities. Herring processors, traditionally dominating the fish industry, have been losing market shares in the 1980s partially due to old technology. The flatfish industry is specialized in the processing of plaice and sole. Hand peeling of shrimps is forbidden under current Dutch legislation and therefore investments may be required in shrimp peeling machinery. The mollusc processing sector has been expanding along with raw material imports.

The Dutch processing sector will have to adjust to the new EC hygiene and public health standards.

1.4.2. Marketing

Because of the special geographical characteristics of the Dutch coast, not every port has a fish market; some ports are only used for loading and unloading.

Dutch ports and landing sites are generally well equipped, only two show very poor hygiene standards. However, investments are needed also in other landing sites in order to meet the new EC standards.

1.4.3. Conclusion

The main strengths and weaknesses of the processing and marketing sector are:

- (i) the fish processing industry relies heavily on imports of raw materials;
- (ii) some 76% of all processed products are exported;
- (iii) investments are needed to improve hygiene and public health conditions as well as quality;
- (iv) productivity and quality can be improved through further automation and mechanization;
- (v) marketing facilities covering auction halls plus landing and handling of fish are generally adequate but require some improvement in hygiene and public health conditions;
- (vi) there is a need to reduce the adverse environmental impact resulting from some fishery and aquaculture processes;
- (vii) higher product value and innovation are ways of meeting changing consumer preferences on the domestic as well as on foreign markets.

2. Priority axes for common action

2.1. Priority axes

Based upon the strengths and weaknesses of the sector, the Commission and the Dutch 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 four measures will be undertaken within the processing axes.

Measure 1: Improvement of hygiene and public health standards

An improvement of hygiene and public health standards in relation to new EC regulations is needed. This too will contribute to an increase in quality. This measure is foreseen for fish processing and shellfish production.

Measure 2: Reducing the adverse environmental impact

Pollution resulting from fish processing and aquaculture production can be reduced by investments in works such as water treatment, waste disposal and smoke treatment. In this respect quarantine systems for shellfish processing plants are important.

Measure 3: Improvement of quality and product value

The aim of the Dutch processing industry is to maintain and where possible improve its competitive position. Investments will be made to produce high-quality products and at the same time increase the value-added of raw materials. Product innovation is needed, where the availability of raw materials and market outlets for fish products can be demonstrated. In some parts of the fish processing industry further automation and mechanization is needed.

Measure 4: Pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance, studies

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

2.1.2. Axis 2: Marketing

Measure 1: Improving hygiene and public health standards

Whilst facilities at auction halls, plus landing and handling areas are generally good, investments are needed to improve hygiene and public health conditions in order to meet the new EC regulations.

Measure 2: Pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance, studies

Where investments involve demonstration/pilot 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 (CFP)

The actions foreseen in this Community support framework 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:

- Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- 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 Community support framework 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 Community support frameworks 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 Community support framework which complement and integrate with other Community support frameworks.

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 Community support framework financing tables are those agreed between the Commission and the Dutch 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

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 the 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 Community support framework.

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

At 1991 prices

(1 000 ECU)

Priority axes	Total cost ¹	Public expenditure									Private sector	Community loans EIB ³
		Total public expenditure	Community grants				National contribution ²					
			Total EEC	EAGGF 5a	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities	Other		
			1	2=3 + 7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10	8		
<i>New actions</i>												
1. processing	22 100	5 525	4 420	4 420	—	—	1 105	1 105	—	—	16 575	
2. marketing	3 900	975	780	780	—	—	195	195	—	—	2 925	
New actions Subtotal	26 000	6 500	5 200	5 200	—	—	1 300	1 300	—	—	19 500	token entry
<i>Existing commitments (token entry)</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Existing commitments Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	26 000	6 500	5 200	5 200	—	—	1 300	1 300	—	—	19 500	token entry

¹ Only including investments which are planned for co-financing under this Community support framework.

² Breakdown between State/region/other will be decided later.

³ Participation of the EIB will be decided later.

Table 2
Indicative financing plan
by priority axis and existing commitments (1991-93)

At 1991 prices

(1 000 ECU)

	Total cost ¹	Public expenditure								Private sector	Community loans EIB ³	
		Total public expenditure	Community grants				National contribution ²					
			Total EEC	EAGGF 5a	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities			Other
1	2=3 + 7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10	8	9	10	11	12	
1991	7 500	1 875	1 500	1 500	—	—	375	375	—	—	5 625	
1992	9 500	2 375	1 900	1 900	—	—	475	475	—	—	7 125	
1993	9 000	2 250	1 800	1 800	—	—	450	450	—	—	6 750	
Total	26 000	6 500	5 200	5 200	—	—	1 300	1 300	—	—	19 500	token entry

¹ Only including investments which are planned for co-financing under this Community support framework.

² Breakdown between State/region/other will be decided later.

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 of 28 January 1989).

5.1.3. Protection of the environment

The measures taken in the course of implementing the Community support framework (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 Community support framework 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 Community support frameworks, 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 Community support framework, 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 Community support frameworks.

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;
- (ii) 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 control activity are clearly defined, and that instructions are given to discharge these responsibilities correctly.

The responsibility of this designated authority concerns in particular:

- (i) the proposal of methods of *ex-ante* evaluation used by the Member State in drawing up proposals for Community intervention;
- (ii) 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 Community support framework 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 Community support framework;
- (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:

- (a) the methods of *ex-ante* evaluation of proposals for Community intervention;
- (b) 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 Community support framework.

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;
- 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:

- (i) 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 socioeconomic 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 is 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 Community support framework;
- (ii) assessing the existence of adequate implementation and management structures;
- (iii) assessing the coordination of structural operations with other Community policies, the combination of grants and loans, as well as their economic soundness and the 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 Community support framework

According to the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88, the Community support frameworks 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 modification of Community support frameworks, established through agreement between the Member State and the Commission with a view to allowing their flexible implementation are as follows:

- (a) The following modifications can be decided by the Monitoring Committee(s):
- variations between priorities compared to the initial estimates included in the indicative financing plan of not more than 15% for 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;
 - 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:
- modifications going beyond the thresholds of 15 and 20% defined in (a) but not beyond 25%;
 - 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 Community support framework 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 Community support framework 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)

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