

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 97 final

Brussels, 10th March 1976

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

relating to the measures to be taken for the implementation of
financial and technical cooperation with the Maghreb countries
and Malta.

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1. For the purpose of implementing the financial and technical cooperation with the Maghreb countries and Malta provided for in the cooperation Agreements and the Financial Protocol, the negotiation of which has recently been completed, the Community must adopt internal measures to ensure the financing and the administration of that cooperation.
2. In accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the Replacement of Financial Contributions from Member States by the Communities' own Resources, budget appropriations should be earmarked as from the 1977 financial year for the financing of all the aid accorded to the Maghreb countries and Malta other than that granted by the European Investment Bank from its own resources. The inclusion in the Community budget of all expenditure resulting from the Community policies corresponds to the desire for transparency expressed by the European Council, the Member States and the Council of Ministers.

Lastly, the Commission considers it dangerous that the European Parliament should be divested of control over important Community policies by taking away from it the possibility of supervising the utilization of the relevant appropriations. The position of Parliament on this is particularly firm, as is evidenced by its repeated calls for the inclusion of aid appropriations in the budget. On the eve of the final decision on elections to Parliament and with ratification of the Treaties strengthening its budgetary powers imminent, this demand takes on its full importance. Moreover, the European Development Fund is the only non-budget Community financial operation to be agreed upon since the Decision of 21 April 1970 (there is, incidentally, already an agreement of principle regarding the inclusion of the fifth EDF in the budget).

It was agreed to introduce the European unit of account as the Community budget accounting unit by 1 January 1978 at the latest. The fact that up to that date part of the aid to the Maghreb countries and Malta will be covered by the Community budget using the present unit of account as the accounting unit will present only minor technical problems. In view of the probable date of ratification of the Agreements, expenditure during the 1977 financial year can be expected to be minimal. For this reason, the Commission considers that the amount of commitment appropria-

tions to be written into the 1977 preliminary draft budget should not exceed 10 million units of account. Disbursements in 1977 will necessarily be negligible, and a realistic unit of account will be adopted for all subsequent disbursements.

3. The internal measures that have to be taken for the purpose of administering the financial and technical cooperation with the Maghreb countries and Malta are currently the subject of discussions between the Commission and the European Investment Bank. These discussions are now sufficiently advanced to enable a solution to be reached in the very near future.

In the Commission's opinion, the problem of administration of the cooperation, which essentially involves sharing the responsibilities between the Commission and the Bank, cannot have any effect on the financing and therefore does not necessarily have to be settled before the Agreements with the Maghreb countries are signed. The Commission will do its best to submit a communication on this subject to the Council as quickly as possible.

In order to enable the Agreement with the Maghreb countries to be signed as soon as possible, the Commission requests the Council to take note of this communication.

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SCHEMA
DE
FICHE FINANCIERE

établi pour le budget de l'exercice 1977
et applicable aux propositions d'actions
nouvelles

A. PREMIERE PARTIE : CREDITS D'INTERVENTION

(pour actions anciennes et nouvelles)

1. LIGNE BUDGETAIRE CONCERNEE

Article 910

2. INTITULE DE LA LIGNE BUDGETAIRE

Coopération financière et technique avec les pays du Maghreb
et Malte

3. BASE JURIDIQUE

Article 238 du traité CEE

4. DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIF(S) ET JUSTIFICATION DE L'ACTION

Ces crédits doivent permettre l'exécution des dispositions relatives
à l'assistance financière et technique contenues dans les accords
conclus avec les pays du Maghreb et Malte. (à l'exception des prêts
accordés par la BEI sur ses ressources propres)

5. CREDITS (en u.c.)

- 1.000.000 u.c. en crédits de paiement

- 10.000.000 u.c. en crédits d'engagement

5.0 ECHEANCIER PLURIANNUEL

Les accords portent sur un montant total de 182 Muc pour 5 ans :
172 pour les pays du Maghreb et 10 pour Malte (auxquels s'ajoutent
les prêts alloués par la BEI sur ses ressources propres : 167 Muc
pour le Maghreb et 16 Muc pour Malte)

5.1 RYTHME D'UTILISATION AU COURS DE L'EXERCICE EN PREPARATION

Compte tenu des délais nécessaires à la ratification des accords,
les premiers engagements et paiements n'interviendront que dans le
courant de l'exercice 1977.

5.2 MODE DE CALCUL

Les 10 Muc ont été calculés en fonction de la date probable d'entrée
en vigueur des accords et des délais nécessaires au démarrage de
l'action.

6. REGIME DE CONTROLE PREVU

Régime prévu au règlement financier du 25 avril 1973 applicable au budget général des Communautés.

B. DEUXIEME PARTIE : INFORMATIONS SUPPLEMENTAIRES POUR UNE ACTION NOUVELLE (1)

7. COUT TOTAL DE L'ACTION PENDANT TOUTE LA DUREE ENVISAGEE

182 Muc. (auxquelles viennent s'ajouter 183 Muc de prêts alloués par la BEI sur ses ressources propres)

8. INFORMATION SUR LE PERSONNEL ET SUR LES CREDITS DE FONCTIONNEMENT NECESSAIRES POUR LA REALISATION DE L'ACTION

(Pour l'exercice en cours, pour les trois exercices suivants et, si possible, pour la durée totale de l'action)

L'action sera réalisée dans le cadre du tableau des effectifs de la Commission.

9. FINANCEMENT DE L'ACTION

L'action sera financée sur crédits budgétaires

(1) La décision de la Commission du 28 novembre 1973 sur les nouvelles orientations en matière budgétaire fait état de la nécessité d'établir pour une action nouvelle un "mémoire financier", lequel est constitué par les deux parties de la fiche financière.