

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE
SPRECHERGRUPPE
SPOKESMAN'S GROUP
GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE
GRUPPO DEL PORTAVOCCE
BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERDER

INFORMATION
INFORMATISCHE AUFZEICHNUNG
INFORMATION MEMO

NOTE D'INFORMATION
NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE
TER DOCUMENTIE

Brussels, December 1974

SOCIAL FUND AID FOR RETRAINING WORKERS APPROVED

The Commission has approved grants totalling 197.5 million u.a. for 1974 for a considerable number of schemes for retraining workers. A number of the schemes assisted contain programmes continuing through into 1975 and 1976.

This financial assistance results from applications to the European Social Fund being successfully recommended by the Fund's Committee of Ministry of Labour officials and trade union and employer representatives from each of the Member States.

Help from the Social Fund has been concentrated this year on schemes to retrain unemployed workers and those threatened with redundancy. Persons retrained for a new job include those leaving agriculture and textiles and those having difficulty in obtaining work in poorer regions of the Community. In a number of cases employed persons threatened with redundancy, as a result of technical progress, are being helped through retraining to a higher level of skill. Schemes enabling many thousands of handicapped people to obtain employment and, for the first time, programmes to assist the resettlement and integration of migrant workers and their families are also supported by the Fund.

The Commission acceptance of these recommendations complements decisions taken earlier this year, which together make a total of approximately 254.5 million u.a. allocated through the Social Fund for 1974. For details see Annexe.

The forward commitments for assistance approved by the Fund amount to 90.5 million u.a. for 1975 and 25.4 million u.a. for 1976.

Assistance from the Old Social Fund which is being phased out amounted in 1974 to 52.8 million u.a. for retraining and resettlement. Assistance for pilot projects given in 1974 amounted to 600,000 u.a.

Assistance available for schemes to help persons in poorer regions of the Community, to assist retraining resulting from the needs of technical progress and where groups of related companies get into difficulty has been fully utilised this year.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND COMMITMENTS DECIDED FOR 1974

(in millions of units of account)

COUNTRY	ARTICLE 4				ARTICLE 5		TOTAL		Overall Total
	Agriculture	Textiles	Handicapped	Migrants	Regions, Technical Progress	Handicapped	Article 4	Article 5	
BELGIUM	0.3	0.6	-	-	4.1	1.5	0.9	5.6	6.5
DENMARK	-	-	-	-	3.3	8.9	-	12.2	12.2
GERMANY	6.6	2.6	-	0.1	6.5	12.2	9.3	18.7	28.0
FRANCE	14.9	0.7	0.2	0.4	27.9	5.2	16.3	33.2	49.5
IRELAND	6.0	1.2	-	-	8.7	1.0	7.2	9.6	16.8
ITALY	2.2	0.5	0.3	1.2	65.3	3.2	4.3	68.5	72.8
LUXEMBOURG	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	-	0.01	0.01
NETHERLANDS	0.9	-	-	-	3.7	2.1	0.9	5.8	6.7
UNITED KINGDOM	0.2	0.6	0.8	6.4*	44.5	9.6	7.9	54.1	62.0
TOTAL	31.0	6.3	1.4	8.0	164.1	43.7	46.8	207.7	254.5

Notes: The figures in the columns have been rounded to the first decimal point so may differ slightly from the totals.
*Provisional.