

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM (78) 281 final

Brussels, 3 July 1978

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
on the development of an agricultural advisory
service in Italy

(Submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM (78) 281 final

Justification

- Following its communication "Guidelines concerning the development of the Mediterranean regions of the Community, together with certain measures relating to agriculture" the Commission sends the Council the attached draft regulation.

- This draft regulation concerns a common measure aimed at developing agricultural advisory work in Italy on the basis of programmes and measures for the balanced development of agriculture in order to remedy the serious structural deficiencies and the extremely low agricultural productivity which affect the greater part of the country. In fact, an effective advisory service does not exist in many regions of Italy; the creation of such a service is of vital interest not alone for Italian agriculture but also for the Community as a whole.

The measure should provide farmers with a permanent access to information and advice in such a way that they can use it to maximum advantage in their own situation. Special attention should be given to the basic and advanced training of advisory leaders and to general and specialist advisers.

The common measure comprises :

- the establishment of a public advisory institute comprising inter-regional centres to provide basic and advanced training for advisory leaders and for general and specialist advisers; and

- the assignment of trained advisers within the framework of annual advisory programmes to the carrying out of programmes or measures for the balanced development of agriculture.

The centres shall have a permanent teaching staff qualified, in particular, in agricultural advisory techniques, and aided, as necessary, by staff from universities, research and other institutes. They shall ensure that a very close collaboration exists between research, advisory work and vocational training.

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- The measure has to be harmoniously inserted into the administrative and organisational structures in Italy and at the same time ensure the optimum use of the Community's financial contribution. In this regard the Community must be in a position to make certain that the actions undertaken by Italy contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the common measure.
- Financial subvention by the Community is justified by the importance which is attached to the establishment of such an advisory service which is already high developed in other Member States, and by the fact that because of economic and budgetary constraints Italy does not have the financial means necessary to establish it.

Need for additional personnel

The management of the Council Regulation on the development of an agricultural advisory service in Italy demands the services of a Commission official who understands

- a) the problem of Italian agriculture and their implication for advisory work;
- b) the organisational aspects of an effective advisory service; and who is capable of
- c) critically assessing the efficacy of advisory work in practice as well as the training needs of advisers in relation to the problems to be solved at farm level.

The establishment and development of an effective advisory service in Italy is a long-term proposition. Consequently, careful attention must be given by the Commission services to all aspects of its development - organisational, training, and implementation - during the entire 12-year period covered by the common measure. Such attention will demand the services of one official on a full-time basis during this period. Division E-3 does not have an official who can manage this Regulation in addition to his current work.

In the circumstances an additional post of A5/4 grade is hereby requested.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission, (1),

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas, if effective and balanced implementation of the common agricultural policy in Italy is to remedy the serious structural deficiencies and markedly inadequate agricultural productivity in this Member State, a considerable effort must be made to provide farmers with information and advice;

Whereas many regions of Italy lack an effective agricultural advisory service;

Whereas, because of economic and budgetary constraints, Italy does not have sufficient means to establish a system comparable to those already highly developed in the other Member States;

(1) OJ No

(2) OJ No

(3) OJ No

Whereas an effective advisory service in Italy will be in the interest of the Community and will contribute to the achievement of the objectives defined in Article 39(1)(a) of the Treaty, including the structural changes necessary for the proper functioning of the common market; whereas these measures therefore constitute a common measure within the meaning of Article 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 of 21 April 1970 on the financing of the common agricultural policy (4);

Whereas the terms should be defined on which the Community will help to finance the planning and introduction of an advisory service by the Member State concerned; whereas, while Italy should be responsible for such planning, account being taken of existing administrative structures, certain conditions should be laid down to guarantee optimum utilization of the Community's financial contribution;

Whereas the planned service must not only give farmers permanent access to information and advice but must also help the individual farmer to use such information and advice to his own best advantage;

Whereas the provision of an advisory service cannot be treated in isolation but must form part of programmes and measures for the balanced development of agriculture within which advisory work, experimental research and vocational training of farmers and farm workers should be closely coordinated;

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(4) OJ No L 94, 28.4.1970, p. 13

Whereas the Community must be able to check that the action taken by Italy will help to achieve the objectives of the common measure and will meet the conditions on which the Community financial aid is granted; whereas a procedure should be laid down whereby the Member States and the Commission will cooperate closely in the Standing Committee on Agricultural Structure set up under Article 1 of the Council Decision of 4 December 1962 on the coordination of policies on the structure of agriculture (5) and whereby the EAGGF Committee will be consulted on financial matters in accordance with Articles 11 to 15 of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. In order to ensure that farmers in Italy have permanent access to a system of agricultural information and guidance, thereby helping to increase productivity and incomes and contribute to the modernization of farms, there is hereby instituted a common measure within the meaning of Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 for the development of an agricultural advisory service in Italy in conjunction with programmes or measures for the balanced development of agriculture.
2. The Commission may, in accordance with the provisions of Title IV, grant aid for the common measure by financing through the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, hereinafter called the Fund, measures for the implementation of an outline plan of agricultural advisory work, as described in Title I, which fulfil the conditions laid down in Titles II and III.

TITLE I

Outline plan of advisory work

Article 2

1. The outline plan of agricultural advisory work shall cover :
 - the establishment of arrangements for the training of agricultural advisers by a public agricultural advisory institute, hereafter called "institute" comprising inter-regional training centres, hereafter called "centres";
 - the assignment of trained advisers to the task of carrying out programmes and measures for the balanced development of agriculture.

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2. The outline plan of agricultural advisory work shall be drawn up by the Italian Republic. Its duration shall be the same as that of the common measure.

Article 3

The outline plan of agricultural advisory work shall contain all the information required for its assessment, including:

1. as regards the training of advisers:
 - a) the legal status and the organization, function and detailed rules of operation of the institute and the centres referred to in Article 2(1) including:
 - the composition, function and detailed rules of operation of the institute's Administrative Board,
 - the location of the centres taking into account the specific advisory needs of the different parts of Italy;
 - the numbers and qualifications of the teaching staff planned;
 - the arrangements to ensure the financing of the institute and the centres.
 - b) the conditions for admission to basic and advanced training courses for general or specialist agricultural advisers;
 - c) the principle conditions, content and duration of basic and advanced training courses for advisers;
 - d) measures planned for providing specialized training of the teaching staff.
2. as regards the assignment of trained advisers to agricultural advisory work:
 - a) the programmes or measures for the balanced development of agriculture within the framework of which the advisers will work when trained;
 - b) the priority areas covered by these programmes or measures;
 - c) the advisory services to which the advisers will be assigned.

Article 4

1. The outline plan shall be communicated to the Commission by the Italian Government.
2. If so requested by the Commission, the Italian Government shall supply further details concerning the information required under Article 3.

Article 5

The Commission shall decide upon the approval of the outline plan and upon any amendments to it in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 16, after consultation of the Fund Committee on the financial aspects.

TITLE IITraining of agricultural advisersArticle 6

1. The principal functions of the institute, including the centres, referred in Article 2(1), shall be:
 - a) to provide basic and advanced training for advisory leaders and for general and specialist advisers in the centres;
 - b) to develop, in close collaboration with those involved in research and advisory work and with universities, basic and advanced training programmes for advisers;
 - c) to study and apply advisory techniques appropriate to the needs of farmers in different areas, and to assess the training requirements of advisers in the light of the results achieved by the advisers working within the framework of the programmes or measures referred to in Article 3
 - d) to organize periodical seminars bringing together advisers and the staff of the Institute to assess the results of advisory work and the advisers' training requirements.
2. The centres shall have permanent teaching staff qualified in the fields referred to in Article 7 (1). Staff from universities, research stations other institutions may also be called upon to teach special subjects.

Article 7

1. The training of advisers must enable persons meeting the requirements set out in Article 8 to acquire an adequate knowledge of the following subjects :
 - agricultural advisory techniques;
 - rural psychology and sociology;
 - farm management techniques;
 - preparation of development plans within the meaning of Directive 72/159/EEC;
 - preparation and execution of the programmes or measures referred to in Article 3 (2) and other specialized subjects connected therewith.
2. The basic courses must comprise at least nine months of theoretical and practical training. Advanced and refresher courses must last for at least two weeks.

Article 8

1. The training courses referred to in Article 7 shall be open to candidates who :
 - have an appropriate university degree for agricultural advisory work; and
 - are otherwise suitably qualified to carry out agricultural advisory work and have adequate experience of farming problems.

TITLE III

Assignment of advisers

Article 9

1. The agricultural advisers trained in accordance with Article 7 (1) shall be assigned under annual advisory plans to the carrying out of programmes or measures for the balanced development of agriculture as referred to in Article 3 (2)(a).
2. The annual advisory plans may cover all or some of the areas referred to in Article 3 (2)(b), or part of one of them.
3. The annual advisory plans shall indicate :
 - a) the nature of the programmes or measures referred to in paragraph 1, the aims pursued, and the areas in which they are to apply;
 - b) the advisory services to which the advisers will be assigned;
 - c) the way in which the agricultural advisory service will contribute to carrying out these programmes and measures, and any specific advisory projects planned to this end;
 - d) the current situation as regards agricultural advisory work in the areas concerned;
 - e) the kind of advisory work required, and the number of general and specialized advisers and advisory leaders planned;
 - f) the steps being taken to ensure that advisers are engaged full time in advising farmers;
 - g) the permanent relationship established between the agricultural advisory service, the department for the provision of socio-economic guidance to farmers, and agricultural research, experimentation and training.

Article 10

1. The annual plans shall be communicated to the Commission by the Italian government.
2. If so requested by the Commission, the Italian government shall supply further details concerning the information required under Article 9.

Article 11

The Commission shall decide upon the approval of the annual plans in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 116, after consultation of the Fund Committee on the financial aspects.

TITLE IVGeneral and financial provisionsArticle 12

1. The period envisaged for implementation of the common measure is twelve years.
2. The total estimated cost of the common measure to the Fund is [79] million European units of account.
3. Article 6 (5) of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 shall apply to this Regulation.

Article 13

1. Expenditure by the Italian Republic on the implementation of the measures referred to in Title II shall be eligible for reimbursement from the Fund, in the proportions specified in paragraph 2.
2. The Fund shall reimburse to the Italian Republic 75 % of :
 - the running expenses of the Institute including the centres referred to in Article 2(3) first indent, up to a maximum eligible amount of 310.000 EUA/year;
 - expenditure incurred by way of course attendance allowances or grants, up to a limit of 3000 EUA/year per participant and a maximum eligible amount of 600 000 EUA/year ;
 - expenditure incurred in the specialized training of teachers, up to a maximum eligible amount of 195 000 EUA.

3. In the context of the annual advisory plans referred to in Article 9 the Fund shall grant to the Italian Republic an annual premium of 6.000 EUA per adviser financed by the public authorities and trained in accordance with Article 7 (1). Fund aid shall extend over a maximum period of six years of work by the adviser.
4. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) No 729/70.

Article 14

1. Applications for reimbursement of the expenditure referred to in Article 13(2) shall relate to the expenditure incurred by the Italian Republic during a calendar year and shall be submitted to the Commission before 1 July of the following year.
2. Advances may be granted by reference to the arrangements established by the Italian Republic for the financing of the Institute and centres.
3. Applications for payment of the annual premiums referred to in Article 13(3) shall be submitted by the Italian government before 15 March of each year in respect of the advisers employed on 1 January of that year. Applications for premiums for advisers beginning work after 1 January shall be made with the applications for the following year; an allowance proportional to the duration of their service shall be paid for these latter advisers.
4. Decisions to grant aid from the Fund shall be made in accordance with Article 7 (1) of Regulation (EEC) n° 729/70.
5. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EEC) N° 729/70.

Article 15

Before 1 August of each year the Commission shall submit to the Parliament and to the Council a report on the progress of this common measure. The Italian government shall provide the Commission with all the documentation needed for this purpose.

Article 16

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the matter shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Structure by the Chairman either on his own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State.
2. The representative of the Commission shall submit a draft of the measures to be adopted. The Standing Committee on Agricultural Structure shall deliver its Opinion on those measures within a time limit set by the Chairman according to the urgency of the matters. An opinion shall be adopted by a majority of forty one votes, the votes being weighted as laid down in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty. The Chairman shall not vote.
3. The Commission shall adopt measures which shall be immediately applicable. However, if such measures are not in accordance with the Opinion delivered by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Structure, they shall at once be communicated by the Commission to the Council. In that case, the Commission may defer for not more than one month from the date of such communication, application of the measures which it has adopted.

The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may adopt a different decision within one month.

Article 17

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DATE : 15.5.1978

1. BUDGET LINE CONCERNED : NEW LINE TO BE CREATED

2. ACTION : COMMON MEASURE CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ADVICE IN ITALY

3. LEGAL BASIS : ARTICLE 6 OF REGULATION 729/70

4. OBJECTIVES : TO PROVIDE A BASIC FARM ADVISORY SERVICE IN ITALY, WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE TO FARMING PROGRESS.

5. FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCE	FOR THE MARKETING YEAR	CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR (78)	FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR (79)
5.0 EXPENDITURE			
-CHARGED TO THE EC BUDGET (REFUNDS/INTERVENTIONS)		-	0,024 MUCE
-CHARGED TO NATIONAL ADMINISTR.		-	0,01 MUCE
-CHARGED TO OTHER NATIONAL GROUPS		-	-
5.1 RECEIPTS			
-OWN RESOURCES OF THE EC (LEVIES/CUSTOMS DUTIES)		-	-
-NATIONAL		-	-

	YEAR ...1979.....	YEAR ...1980.....	YEAR ...1981.....
5.0.1 PLURIANNUAL PATTERN OF EXPENDITURE	0,024	0,147	0,581 MUCE
5.1.1 PLURIANNUAL PATTERN OF RECEIPTS	-	-	-

5.2 METHOD OF CALCULATION

SEE ANNEX

6.0 FINANCING POSSIBLE WITH CREDITS INSCRIBED IN RELEVANT CHAPTER OF CURRENT BUDGET ? YES/NO

6.1 FINANCING POSSIBLE BY TRANSFER BETWEEN CHAPTERS OF CURRENT BUDGET ? YES/NO

6.2 NECESSITY FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ? YES/NO

6.3 CREDITS TO BE WRITTEN INTO FUTURE BUDGETS ? YES/NO

COMMENTS :

ANNEX

1. HYPOTHESIS:

Timing: During the 12 year duration of the measure, the following calendar of events would seem reasonable.

January 1979	:	Council of administration is inaugurated
Feb. 79 - July 79	:	Teaching staff recruited.
Sept. 79 - June 80	:	Teaching staff trained in extension methodology (15 in all)
Sept. 80 - June 81	:	1st course of training advisory officers held at the 3 sub-centres.
July 1981	:	first batch of advisory officers allocated to specific projects.
Sept 1989 - June 1990	:	Tenth and final batch of advisory officers follow training course.
July 1990	:	Final batch of advisory officers allocated to specific projects.

Number of Candidates: Each Centre shall train approximately 60-70 candidates per year, hence the total annual output will be about 200 advisory officers. This figure should be judged in comparison with the annual output of Agronomists from the Italian Universities which is in the region of 800 to 1000.

A throughput of 200 officers per year would mean that on average 9-10 officers would be available per region per year to be allocated to the specific projects.

2. COST OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION:

a) Staff.

The permanent staff of the Council would consist of:

- a Director
- one Administrator
- two Secretaries.

The total cost of their salaries, pensions, social security, thirteenth month would be 25.000 UC per year.

b) Accommodation:

Suitable offices for the Council could be rented at a cost of 5000 UC per year inclusive of cleaning, heating, electricity and water.

c) Administrative Costs.

These include stationary, telephone, postage, duplicating etc. and are estimated at an annual cost of 6000 UC.

d) Cost of Council Meetings:

It is estimated that the Council will hold approximately 4 meetings per year. The main costs of these meetings shall be travelling expenses and daily allowances of the members.

The estimated costs of the meetings are taken as 4000 per year.

e) Total annual cost of the Council of Administration.

- Salaries	25.000 u.a.
- Accommodation	5.000 u.a.
- Administrative	6.000 u.a.
- Meetings	<u>4.000 u.a.</u>
Total	40.000 u.a. per year

3. COSTS OF TRAINING CENTRE:

a) Staff

The permanent staff at each of the three locations would be as follows:

- a Head
- 4 teachers
- 2 Secretaries

The total cost of their salaries, pensions, social security, thirteenth month would be 60.000 per year.

b) Cost of Visiting Lecturers

In addition to this amount an allowance will be required for payment of visiting lecturers, say 10.000 u.a. per year.

c) Administrative Costs:

The administrative costs of the Centre will be higher to those of the Council at 10.000 u.a.

d) Total Annual Cost:

- Salaries	60.000 u.a. per year
- Visiting Lecturers	10.000 u.a.
- Administration	10.000 u.a.
- other costs	<u>10.000 u.a.</u>
Total per location	90.000 u.a.

As the Centre will have 3 locations, the total cost of the Centre will be $3 \times 90.000 = 270.000$ u.a. per year.

4. COST OF SPECIALISED TRAINING FOR TEACHING STAFF:

It is the intention that the staff of the Centre follow a special University one year course in Extension Methods. This would involve the 15 staff members of the Centre. The cost of this course per staff member has to be calculated as follows:

- Salary	8.000 u.a.
- Indemnity	4.000 u.a.
- Fees, books, travelling	<u>1.000 u.a.</u>
	13.000

As 15 staff members will be trained the total cost will be $15 \times 13.000 = 195.000$ u.a.

5. COST OF STUDENT INDEMNITY:

Each student attending a full basic course at the Centre will receive a student indemnity of 3.000 u.a. to help cover travelling costs, accommodation, books, etc.

The annual cost of the indemnity shall be:

$$3.000 \times 200 = 600.000 \text{ u.a.}$$

200

6. COST OF ANNUAL PREMIUM PAID TOWARDS COST OF ADVISORS ALLOCATED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS:

The annual Premium paid by the EAGGF, to the regions carrying out specific projects, is 6000 u.a. per advisor per year for the first 6 years after his appointment to a Specific Projects.

Year	No. of Newly trained advisors	Total cost of EAGGF (MUCE)
1980	-	
1981	-	
1982	200	1,2
1983	400	2,4
1984	600	3,6
1985	800	4,8
1986	1000	6,0
1987	1200	7,2
1988	1200	7,2
1989	1200	7,2
1990	1200	7,2
1991	1200	7,2
1992	1000	6,0
1993	800	4,8
1994	600	3,6
1995	400	2,4
1996	200	1,2
TOTAL		72 MUCE

SUMMARY OF COSTS

COMMITMENTS APPROPRIATIONS

Year	Council	Centre	Training Staff	Student Indemnity	Total	FEOGA Cost 75%	Cost of Premium	Total EAGGF cost
1979	0,04	-	-	-	0,04	0,03	-	0,03
1980	0,04	-	0,195	-	0,235	0,176	-	0,176
1981	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	-	0,683
1982	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	1,2	1,883
1983	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	2,4	3,083
1984	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	3,6	4,283
1985	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	4,8	5,483
1986	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	6,0	6,683
1987	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	7,2	7,883
1988	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	7,2	7,883
1989	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	7,2	7,883
1990	0,04	0,27	-	0,6	0,91	0,683	7,2	7,883
1991	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,2	7,2
1992	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,0	6
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,8	4,8
1994	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,6	3,6
1995	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,4	2,4
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,2	1,2
TOTAL	0,48	2,7	0,195	6		7,036	72	79,036

YEAR	COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS
1979	0,03	0,024
1980	0,176	0,147
1981	0,683	0,581
1982	1,883	1,643
1983	3,083	2,843
1984	4,283	4,043
1985	5,483	5,243
1986	6,683	6,443
1987	7,883	7,643
1988	7,883	7,883
1989	7,883	7,883
1990	7,883	7,883
1991	7,2	7,337
1992	6	6,24
1993	4,8	5,04
1994	3,6	3,84
1995	2,4	2,64
1996	1,2	1,44
1997	-	0,24
TOTAL	79,036	79,036

Total cost of the actions : 79 MUCE