

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76)279 final

Brussels, 2 June 1976

COMMUNITY HELP FOR FRIULI

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRING
INFRASTRUCTURAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE
FRIULI EARTHQUAKE OF MAY 1976

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council)

COM(76)279 final

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Friuli region was hit very hard indeed by an earthquake on 6 May 1976. The casualty list was enormous; over 900 dead and over 2400 injured have been counted to date, with over 100,000 homeless.

The earthquake came as a severe blow to the still struggling economy of a region which had begun to undergo real development in the last few years. Industrial and agricultural means of production in the stricken area are in ruins, and infrastructures and communications cut. Preliminary estimates put the damage at over Lit.1,700,000 million, including:

590,000 million in damage to public and private property;
660,000 million in agricultural losses;
410,000 million in damage to industry, small businesses and commerce;
very costly damage to infrastructural installations (roads, water and electricity mains, aqueducts, bridges &c.).

As a result of the disruption of economic activities some 6000 workers have lost their jobs in industry and 9000 in the small business and commercial sector.

The administrative districts worst affected are:

Udine Province

Artegna; Bina; Cavazzo Carnico; Colloredo di Montalbano; Feletto Umberto;
Forgaria; Gemona; Lusevera; Magniano in Riviera; Majano; Moggio Udinese
Montenars; Osoppo; Pradielis; Nimis; Ragnona; Resia; S. Daniele del
Friuli; Sedegliano; Tarcento; Tavagnacco; Trasaghis; Venzona.

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Pordenone Province

Castelnuovo del Friuli; Fanna; Pinzano al Tagliamento; Sequals;
Travesio; Vito d'Asio.

Reconstruction or reconditioning of the infrastructures (roads, bridges, electricity supply networks, water mains &c.) would appear to be a first essential to enable economic and social activities in Friuli to be resumed without delay.

The Community might avail itself, inter alia, of the procedures and experience of the Regional Development Fund to institute arrangements for aiding the reconstruction of certain infrastructures.

The Council could, upon a proposal from the Commission, adopt an ad hoc Regulation confining the Fund's scope to infrastructures only, but extending the concept to cover all infrastructures vital to the reconstruction of the region.

A sum of 15 million u.a. could be set aside for the reconstruction and development of certain economic and social infrastructures in the disaster area.

Community participation could be 30% of the public authorities' expenditure in the case of investments below 10 million u.a. and 10-30% in that of investments above that figure. It could also take the form of a 4% interest subsidy on loans raised by the public authorities for effecting the infrastructure operations concerned.

.../...

Projects would be submitted to the Commission for assessment on their merits. Applications would have in particular to indicate how the investment dovetails into the general corpus of measures by the public authorities under the reconstruction programme for the area.

To allow of prompt and really effective aid from the Fund the Commission would follow a simplified procedure to expedite and facilitate Community participation. To this end provision is made for waiving the consultation of the Regional Policy Committee and the Committee of the Fund: although the Commission will endeavour to consult them as usual before deciding, in urgent cases it may take its decisions without waiting for their opinions, though it must then inform them of its decisions as speedily as possible.

.../...

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No

of.....

on the Community contribution towards repairing the infrastructural damage caused by the earthquake of May 1976 in the region of Friuli/Venezia Giulia

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,*

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 209 and 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas the region of Friuli/Venezia Giulia was devastated by an earthquake in May 1976;

Whereas the harm suffered by the inhabitants is more serious than they and the Member State concerned can make good unaided, and whereas Community assistance for these areas is therefore required;

Whereas the means available should be concentrated on economic and social infrastructures;

Whereas it is desirable to specify the particular arrangements with respect to the carrying over of the appropriations for these operations,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION;

Article 1

Within the limit of the Budget appropriations for this purpose, the Community shall, as provided in Article 2 and in accordance with the procedure laid down in Articles 3 and 4, participate in the reconstruction and improvement of economic and social infrastructures rendered necessary in the region of Friuli/Venezia Giulia by the destruction wrought by the earthquake of May 1976.

Article 2

The amount of the Community's participation shall be 30% of the expenditure by the public authorities where the investment is less than ten million units of account, and 10-30% in the case of investments of ten million units of account or more. The Community's assistance may be wholly or partly in the form of a subsidy of four points on loans contracted by the public authorities for carrying out the project concerned. .../...

Article 3

Assistance shall be decided by the Commission having regard to the priority nature of the investment and its contribution towards expediting the economic recovery of the region.

Article 4

1. The operations to which this Regulation relates shall be covered, by analogy, by Articles 5(2), 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Council Regulation (EEC) no 724/75 of 18 March 1975 setting up a European Regional Development Fund and Article 6(5) of Council Regulation (ECSC/EEC/Euratom) No 73/91 of 25 April 1973 on the General Budget of the European Communities.
2. By derogation from Article 7(2) of Regulation (EEC) 724/75, applications for assistance may be submitted to the Commission on an ongoing basis, but not later than 31 December 1976.
3. By derogation from Articles 5(2) and 12 of Regulation (EEC) 724/75, the Commission may, where it considers expedited procedure to be called for, decide to grant Community assistance without consulting the Regional Policy Committee and the Committee of the Fund; in that case it shall inform the said Committees as soon as possible of the decisions taken.

Article 5

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

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,
The President