

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(75) 693 final.

Brussels, 23 December 1975

PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE

concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas
within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC

(France - Overseas Departments)

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(75) 693 final.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 2, paragraph 1, of Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas, the Government of the French Republic has communicated to the Commission the boundaries of areas, situated in the Overseas Departments, eligible for inclusion in the Community list of less-favoured farming areas, within the meaning of Article 3, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the said Directive. At the same time, the Government has communicated the relevant information concerning the characteristics of these areas and the aid measures to be applied, as well as complementary information, requested by the Commission, on the characteristics of areas, situated in the Overseas Departments, which the French Government proposed in a former communication within the meaning of Article 3, paragraph 3, of Directive 75/268/EEC.

Concerning the characteristics of the areas in question, it should be noted that the level of indices characterising them come within the limits selected by the Commission at the time of the proposal for a Directive of 18 December 1974 relative to the Community list of less-favoured farming areas (1).

In particular, the areas, proposed within the meaning of Article 3, paragraph 3, are characterised in each constituent commune or part of a commune, either by a slope of greater than 20 %, or by an average altitude of 800 metres, or by a combination of these two factors whereby the resulting handicap can be considered as equivalent to that deriving from each of the factors taken separately.

The less-favoured areas in danger of depopulation proposed within the meaning of Article 3, paragraph 4, are characterised simultaneously by a productivity per hectare and a gross farm income per family worker not greater than 77 % and 27 %, respectively, of the national

(1) COM (74) 2222 final 18.12.74

average; whereas the population density is approximately 1 person per square kilometre and the minimum percentage of the active population engaged in agriculture is 30 %.

The areas proposed within the meaning of Article 3, paragraph 5, of the Directive, are characterised by unfavourable natural conditions of production and, at the same time, handicaps resulting from insularity and distance from the mother-country which, consequently, give high transport costs and, therefore, excessive costs of production materials.

The present proposal for a Directive is not accompanied by a financial annex relating to the calculation of expenses, eligible to E.A.G.G.F. arising from the application, in the areas in question, of Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas. This is due to the fact that, in conformance with Article 227, paragraph 2, 1st indent, the dispositions concerning the E.A.G.G.F. are applicable to the French Overseas Departments only by virtue of a Council decision to be taken with respect to the 2nd indent of this same Article 227, paragraph 2. The Commission recalls in this regard that it submitted to the Council, on 31 October 1975, a proposal aimed at extending the application of the E.A.G.G.F. - Orientation Section, to the French Overseas Departments.

This proposal contains a financial statement in which the financial implications of the extension of the Orientation Section to the French Overseas Departments are indicated.

PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE CONCERNING
the Community list of less-favoured
farming areas within the meaning of
Directive 75/268/EEC

(France - Overseas Departments)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 75/268/EEC of 28 April 1975 on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas (1) and especially Article 2, paragraph 2, thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission, (2)

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament, (3)

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee, (4)

whereas the Government of the Republic of France has communicated to the Commission, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1 of Directive 75/268/EEC, ten areas situated in the Overseas Departments of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion and Guiana, and suitable for inclusion in the Community list of less-favoured agricultural areas, as well as information relative to the characteristics of the areas ;

whereas this Government has selected as an index of very difficult climatic conditions, according to Article 3, paragraph 3, first indent of Directive 75/268/EEC, an average altitude in each commune of at least 800 metres ;

whereas steep slopes, according to Article 3, paragraph 3, second indent of Directive 75/268/EEC are defined as being greater than 20 %,

(1) O.J. no. L 128 - 19 May 1975

(2) O.J. no.

(3) O.J. no.

(4) O.J. no.

whereas where there is a combination of the two above mentioned factors, a minimum altitude of 500 metres and at the same time, a slope greater than 15 % or 400 metres and 16 %, respectively, have been selected ;

whereas the following indices relevant to the presence of land of limited potential, according to Article 3, paragraph 4 a) of Directive 75/268/EEC have been utilized: value of final agricultural production per hectare not greater than 77% of the average of Metropolitan France (1,840 FF and 2,400 FF respectively), or livestock density of 0,17 livestock units (L.U.) per forage hectare ;

whereas economic results of farming, appreciably lower than average, according to Article 3, paragraph 4 b) of Directive 75/268/EEC are defined by an index relating to gross farm income per family worker of approximately 27 % of the national average of Metropolitan France (7,700 and 28,400 FF respectively) ;

whereas concerning a low or dwindling population, according to Article 3, paragraph 4 c) of Directive 75/268/EEC, the following index has been utilised: density not greater than 1 inhabitant per square kilometre, whereas the percentage of total active population engaged in agriculture is 30 % ;

whereas concerning the delimitation of areas affected by specific handicaps, which can be considered as less-favoured within the meaning of Article 3, paragraph 5, of Directive 75/268/EEC, the French Government has utilised, on the one hand, the existence of unfavourable natural conditions of production: serious and frequent extremes of climate such as cyclones, prolonged periods of drought and very irregular rainfall, and often very rugged land surfaces and, on the other hand, handicaps resulting from insularity and remoteness from the mother-country which results in excessive costs of products, especially production materials; moreover the combined extent of these areas not exceeding 2.5% of the area of

the Member State concerned (0,46% of the area of Metropolitan France plus the Overseas Departments);

whereas the type and level of the above mentioned indices, utilised by the French Government, in order to define the three classes of area in the Overseas Departments, communicated to the Commission correspond, respectively, to the characteristics of the mountain areas, the less-favoured areas and the areas affected by specific handicaps, according to Article 3, paragraph 3, 4 and 5 of Directive 75/268/EEC ;

whereas the communication of the Member state concerned does not describe the present infrastructure of these areas, according to Article 3, paragraph 2 of the said Directive, and it appears that the infrastructure is inadequate, and besides the absence of information, relevant to the current or projected programmes, does not permit estimation of the time necessary for a definite improvement in the position; it appears, nevertheless, expedient to include the areas in question in the Community list of less-favoured farming areas, on the understanding that the French Government will present shortly to the Commission a detailed communication on this subject ;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

.../...

Article 1

The areas situated in the Overseas Departments of Guadeloupe, Reunion, Martinique and Guiana which appear in the Annex to the present Directive are part of the Community list of less-favoured farming areas, within the meaning of Article 3, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Council Directive 75/268/EEC.

Article 2

The government of the Republic of France will forward to the Commission by the end of 1976 at the latest, a detailed communication indicating the time period during which measures for the substantial improvement of infrastructure will be effected in the areas scheduled in Article 1.

Article 3

The present Directive is addressed to the Republic of France.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,
The President,

A N N E X E

Zones défavorisées au sens de l'article 3, paragraphe 3,
de la Directive 75/268/CEE

Département de la GUADELOUPE

Parties de communes : Deshaies, Pointe-Noire, Bouillante,
Vieux-Habitants, Baillif, Saint-Claude,
Gourbeyre, Vieux-Fort, Trois-Rivières,
Capesterre.

Département de la MARTINIQUE

Communes : Fonds-Saint-Denis, Morne-Rouge, Morne-Vert

Parties de communes : Ajoupa-Bouillon, Basse-Pointe, Bellefontaine,
Carbet, Case-Pilote, Fort-de-France, Grand-Rivière
Gros-Morne, Lorrain, Macouba, Marigot, Prêcheur,
Saint-Joseph, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Pierre,
Schoelcher.

Département de la REUNION

Communes : Cilaos, Plaine-des-Palmistes, Salazie.

Parties de communes : Avirons, Bras-Panon, Entre-Deux, Etang-Salé,
Petite-Ile, Possession, Saint-André, Saint-
Benoit, Saint-Denis, Saint-Leu, Saint-Louis,
Saint-Joseph, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Paul, Saint-
Philippe, Saint-Pierre, Sainte-Rose, Sainte-
Suzanne, Tampon, Trois-Bassins.

.../...

Zones défavorisées au sens de l'article 3, paragraphe 4,
de la Directive 75/268/CEE

Département de la GUYANE

Zone des communes côtières entre la côte et la limite de l'ancienne
colonie de la Guyane

Saint-Laurent, Mana, Iracoubo, Sinnamary, Kourou, Macouria (Tonate),
Montsinery, Cayenne, Matoury, Remire, Roura, Regina, Ouanary, Saint-
Georges.

Zone de l'intérieur : bande de deux kilomètres de largeur le long
des fleuves frontières Maroni, à l'ouest, et Oyapock, à l'est

Grand-Santi, Maripasoula (à l'ouest sur le Maroni).

Saint-Georges, Canopi (à l'est sur l'Oyapock).

Zones défavorisées au sens de l'article 3, paragraphe 5,
de la Directive 75/268/CEE

Département de la GUADELOUPE

Grande-Terre

Communes : Anse-Bertrand, Port-Louis, Moule, St-François, Ste-Anne,
Morne-à-l'eau, Pointe-à-Pitre, Petit-Canal, Gosier, Abymes.

Basse-Terre

Communes : Baie-Mahault, Lamentin, Petit-Bourg, Sainte-Rose, Basse-
Terre, Goyave.

Parties de communes : Deshaies, Pointe-Noire, Bouillante, Vieux-
Habitants, Baillif, Saint-Claude, Gourbeyre,
Vieux-Fort, Trois-Rivières, Capesterre.

Dépendances

Les Saintes : Terre-de-Haut, Terre-de-Bas

La Désirade, Marie-Galante, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin.

Département de la MARTINIQUE

Communes :

Anses-d'Arlets, Le Diamant, Ducos, Le François, Le Lamentin, Le Marin, Rivière-Pilote, Rivière-Salée, Le Robert, Saint-Esprit, Sainte-Anne, Sainte-Luce, Trinité, Les Trois-Ilets, Le Vauclin.

Parties de communes :

Ajoupa-Bouillon, Basse-Pointe, Bellefontaine, Carbet, Case-Pilote, Fort-de-France, Grand-Rivière, Gros-Morne, Lorrain, Macouba, Marigot, Prêcheur, Saint-Joseph, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Pierre, Schoelcher.

Département de la REUNION

Communes :

Le Port

Parties de communes :

Les Avirons, Saint-Denis, La Possession, Saint-Paul, Trois-Bassins, Saint-Leu, Etant-Salé, Saint-Louis, Entre-Deux, Saint-Pierre, Le Tampon, Petite-Ile, Saint-Joseph, Saint-Philippe, Sainte-Rose, Saint-Benoit, Bras-Panon, Saint-André, Sainte-Suzanne, Sainte-Marie.