

Brussels, March 10, 1965.
IP (65) 44.

PRESS RELEASE

European Development Fund: Nine more schemes
financed totalling 26 million units of account.

On March 9, 1965, the EEC Commission decided to finance nine projects approved by the EDF Committee at its sixth meeting on February 25, 1965 to a total of 25.794.000 units of account (= US dollars). These are as follows:

1. Aid to production in Senegal: first annual tranche of 2.590 million Frs. CFA or some 10.492.000 units of account. This instalment, which is devoted exclusively to groundnuts, is part of a five-year programme of aid to production and diversification in Senegal approved by the Commission in accordance with Article 28 of Protocol no. 5 to the Yaoundé Convention.
2. Building of the Afgoi-Baidoa road in Somalia: 34.643.000 Somali shillings or some 4.850.000 u.a. This belongs to a complex road project, in three parts, to be financed jointly by the International Development Association (IDA), a specialized affiliate of the World Bank, the European Development Fund, the United Nations Special Fund (UNSF) and the Government of Somalia. The part financed by the EDF covers 22% of the total cost of constructing the 220 km. road, the cost of supervising the work, the purchase of maintenance equipment and the construction of buildings and workshops for the road services. The preliminary technical survey and the preparation of a call for tenders, also the EDF's responsibility, are financed separately out of funds for technical assistance. This road project is part of Somalia's five-year development plan and will benefit a population of some 220.000 in the important agricultural area of central Somalia situated between Bur-Acaba, Baidoa and Dinsor.
3. Building of the Nouakchott-Rosso road in Mauritania: 795 million Frs. CFA or some 3.220.000 u.a. This is also an important road project to be financed jointly by the EDA, the EDF and the Mauritanian Government. The construction of this 200 km. road, together with the Kaedi-Kiffa road and the Nouakchott wharf (financed through the first EDF), means that Mauritania will no longer be entirely dependent on Senegal for supplies; it will encourage the development of a trade infrastructure proper to Mauritania and will appreciably reduce the distance and the cost involved in transporting goods to Rosso for distribution in east Mauritania.

.../...

4. Construction of the Scialambot-Genale-Goluen road in Somalia: 11.207.000 Somali shillings or some 1.569.000 u.a. The road from Afgoi to Scialambot, which was financed through the first EDF, will be extended as far as Goluen by building one asphalted section and two unmetalled roads crossing the Genale farmlands, which have a population of 42.000. This project will make it possible to transport produce from the area to the ports of Merca and Mogadishu throughout the year. It is one of the steps being taken to lower the cost price of bananas from Somalia.
5. School building in Mauritania: 291.350.000 Frs. CFA or some 1.180.000 u.a. This programme, which covers the building and equipping of primary and secondary class-rooms, living quarters for teachers, and offices and store-rooms, follows an initial programme of school building financed through the first EDF. It represents a further effort of Mauritania to expand its educational system and reach the level of school attendance aimed at for 1966 in the development plan.
6. Building of four secondary schools in the Congo (Brazzaville): 200 million Frs. CFA or some 810.000 u.a. The project follows a first instalment of eight secondary schools built under the first Fund. The twelve schools financed by the two Funds are needed because of the pressure on secondary education in a country where the percentage of children attending school is one of the highest in Africa (76%). The project will make it possible to decentralize secondary education by providing a secondary school in the chief town of every department but one.
7. Purchase of two dredgers for the Congo (Leopoldville): 480 million Frs. CFA or some 3.200.000 u.a. The two large modern dredgers, capable of moving 3 million cubic metres a year, are indispensable for keeping clear a navigable channel in the river Congo, where for 50 kilometres its course tends to change owing to shifting sandbanks, and for the ports of Boma, Ango-Ango and Matadi. The cost includes the crews to be provided by the builder of the dredgers for the year covered by the builder's guarantee.
8. Building of a health centre at Foubouni in the Comoro Islands: 55 million Frs. CFA or some 223.000 u.a. The project, which will benefit some 30.000 inhabitants in the south-east of the Great Comoro, covers the building of a dispensary, a 30-bed ward, a 12-bed maternity wing and three living units. This is the first investment project in an overseas territory approved under the second Fund.
9. Famine relief in Somalia: 1.785.000 Somali shillings or some 250.000 u.a. This provides for emergency aid, supplementing measures taken with the help of several countries and international organizations, to a population of some 700.000. It comprises the purchase and distribution of food and pharmaceutical products and the purchase of road tankers to transport water.

These decisions bring the commitments authorized under the new EDF since the entry into force of the Yaoundé Convention on June 1, 1964 to a total of 65.172.000 units of account.