
Brussels, October 14, 1965
IP(65) 175

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND: 9 MORE SCHEMES FINANCED
TOTALLING OVER 7 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT

On 14 October the EEC Commission decided to finance 9 more schemes by EDF grants totalling 7 195 000 units of account (= US dollars). The schemes, which were endorsed by the EDF Committee at its 11th meeting on 29 September 1965, concern the following:

1. Extension of the Saint-Gabriel College at Majunga, Madagascar: 163 million Malagasy francs or some 660 000 u.a. This social project, part of the Malagasy Government's plan to increase the school-attendance rate, concerns the enlargement of an existing school which is handicapped by lack of space.
2. Survey on the improvement of sanitary conditions in Paramaribo, Surinam: 283 000 NA fl. or some 150 000 u.a. This technical assistance project will provide the basis for a general plan to improve sanitary conditions in the three urban districts of the capital in order to eliminate permanently risks of epidemics caused by water pollution.
3. Building of a pier in the port of Marigot, Department of Guadeloupe: FF 1 850 000 or some 375 000 u.a. Improvement of the port installations in Marigot, situated in the French part of the island of Saint-Martin, one of the maritime dependencies of Guadeloupe, will make it possible to develop the economic activities of the island, which consist chiefly of salt and livestock exports and a relatively important transit trade.
4. Health services programme in Niger: 810 000 Frs. CFA or some 3 281 000 u.a. The project provides for the modernization and enlargement of the Niamey and Zinder hospitals, the creation or modernization of several dispensaries and mobile hygiene and medical centres. This is a general programme forming part of a public health plan for Niger extending over several years.
5. Campaign against onchocerciasis in Upper Volta, Ivory Coast and Mali: 181 million Frs. CFA or some 734 000 u.a. A campaign will be carried on in 1966 and 1967 against human onchocerciasis, one of the most serious endemic diseases affecting mainly the three countries concerned. The EDF-financed campaign will include the treatment of some 400 000 patients and will virtually stamp out the disease from these areas.

6. Survey for the Agonvy palm plantation in Dahomey: 87 500 000 Frs. CFA or some 354 000 u.a. The aim of this technical assistance project, which is connected with investment, is to develop the cultivation of selected oil palms. It specially concerns the introduction of oil-palm cultivation in the Agonvy area (some 6 000 hectares).
7. Survey for water supply in Bamako, capital of Mali: 40 million Mali francs or some 162 000 u.a. This is a comprehensive technical and economic survey in preparation for a master plan to increase the town's water supply and a time-table to establish priorities in accordance with the growth of the capital.
8. Supply of road-building equipment for the Congo (Brazzaville): 230 million Frs. CFA or some 932 000 u.a. Machinery, lorries, etc. will be supplied to the public works sub-divisions in the Congo basin and the Batéké plateaux for the rebuilding, improvement and maintenance of roads in these sectors.
9. Equipment of health services in the North of Cameroon and supervision of works: 135 million Frs. CFA or some 547 000 u.a. Under this social investment project equipment will be supplied for three hospitals, four medical centres and 22 rural dispensaries being built in three departments of East Cameroon with funds from the first EDF. The cost of supervising the constructional works is included in the present scheme.

Besides these nine schemes, the Commission has taken a tenth decision, endorsed by the EDF Committee, on the grant of a short-term advance to the Cocoa Price Stabilization Fund in Cameroon. This advance, worth 6 076 490 u.a. or 1 500 million Frs. CFA, is intended to help Cameroon's Stabilization Fund to overcome the serious financial difficulties it has been experiencing since the collapse of cocoa prices and to maintain the grower's price of 50 Frs. CFA per kg. This is the first time that the EDF has been called on under Article 17(4) of the Yaoundé Convention to provide aid in order to stabilize prices.

The total commitments of the second European Development Fund since it started operating in July 1964 amount to some 168.7 million u.a. for 83 schemes. These figures do not include the advance to the Cameroon Cocoa Price Stabilization Fund which was provided, in pursuance of Article 20 of the Yaoundé Convention, out of the EDF's liquid assets.

Annexes : 10

Annexe : IEXTENSION OF THE SAINT-GABRIEL COLLEGE AT MAJUNGA,
MADAGASCAR

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission decided to finance, by non-repayable grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF), a social investment project in the Malagasy Republic. The project, which will cost 163 million Malagasy francs or some 660 000 units of account (= US dollars), was endorsed by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting.

The aim is to extend as urgently as possible the Saint-Gabriel College in Majunga, which provides primary and secondary schooling for about 1 500 pupils and contains dormitories for 160 boarders. The efficiency of the school is hindered by the lack of space, the existing quarters being insufficient and scattered about the town. In 1965, for example, the rooms available for secondary teaching did not allow more than a quarter of the prospective pupils to be accepted and 50 boarders had to be refused for lack of dormitories. The proposed building, which will be sufficient for the present number of pupils and teachers, will at the same time provide a reserve to meet future needs.

The scheme is one of the long-term measures annexed to Madagascar's five-year plan, under which the Government is aiming at a very marked increase in the present school-attendance rate which was, in 1964, 46% for the island as a whole and only 34% in the province of Majunga.

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Annexe : IISURVEY ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF SANITARY CONDITIONS
IN PARAMARIBO, SURINAM

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission decided to finance, by non-repayable grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF) a technical assistance project to study the improvement of sanitation in Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam. The project had been endorsed by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting.

The survey, for which financial aid was requested by the Government of Surinam, will provide the basis for a general plan to improve sanitary conditions in the three urban areas of Paramaribo and the immediate surroundings and will make it possible to reorganize the numerous independent drainage networks. A more efficient sewage system is indispensable to protect public health, since each time flooding is caused by tropical rains water pollution is the cause of various diseases and threatens to provoke new epidemics of malaria and yellow fever, two diseases already brought under control by government measures.

The scheme, which will cost 283 000 Surinam guilders or some 150 000 units of account (= US dollars), also covers the preparation of a scheme for drainage in the district of the town most threatened by flooding.

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Annexe : III

BUILDING OF A PIER IN THE PORT OF MARIGOT
(DEPARTMENT OF GUADELOUPE)

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission decided to finance, by non-repayable grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF), an economic infrastructure project in the Department of Guadeloupe. The project had been endorsed by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting.

A 94-metre pier and a 290-metre approach road will be built in the port of Marigot in the French part of the Island of Saint-Martin, which is one of the maritime dependencies of the Department of Guadeloupe.

The main resources of the 4 500 inhabitants of this part of the island take the form of salt and livestock exports and of the transit trade, which has grown thanks to the free-port status enjoyed by the whole island. These activities, however, are seriously hindered by the lack of suitable port installations and consequent considerable losses when merchandise is loaded and unloaded. The building of the new pier in reinforced concrete should make it possible to maintain and develop the island's economic activities and open up possibilities for the tourist trade, which is expected to expand in the near future.

The scheme will cost FF 1 850 000 or some 375 000 units of account (= US dollars).

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HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMME IN NIGER

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission approved the financing, by non-repayable grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF), of a social infrastructure scheme in Niger, costing 810 million Frs. CFA or some 3 281 000 units of account (= US dollars). The project had been endorsed by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting.

The scheme provides for the modernization and enlargement of Niamey hospital, the enlargement of Zinder hospital, the creation of a mobile hygiene and medical centre in each of the country's six departments, the overhauling and modernization of six department centres and the re-equipping of four local hospitals and dispensaries.

The state of the health services in Niger calls for the co-ordinated enlargement and modernization of a number of hospitals and other establishments to provide a range of services adapted to the particular conditions of the various regions of the country. The total capacity of the country's hospitals is some 1 800 beds, which is only 0.5 beds for every thousand inhabitants - the lowest rate in the Associated African States and Madagascar. To remedy the situation, the Niger Government has set up a health sub-committee to define the public health objectives of Nigerian planning. The programme proposed is the result of a compromise between the requirements of public health, on the one hand, and budgetary and staff limitations on the other.

The schemes to be financed by the EDF form a complete programme and can be considered a real medium-term public health plan for Niger. The project also provides for a further 18 doctors to be supplied by foreign technical assistance between now and 1970.

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Annexe : V

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ONCHOCERCIASIS

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission approved a social investment scheme in three African States associated with the EEC. The scheme, which the EDF Committee had endorsed at its eleventh meeting, will be financed by grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF) and will cost 181 million Frs. CFA or some 734 000 units of account (= US dollars). The amounts allotted to each country are 95 million Frs. CFA for Upper Volta, 52 million Frs. CFA for Ivory Coast and 34 million Mali Frs. for Mali.

A campaign will be carried on in 1966 and 1967 against human onchocerciasis, one of the most serious endemic scourges affecting almost the whole of tropical Africa and in particular Upper Volta, Ivory Coast and Mali, where it is estimated that at least a tenth of the population suffer from the disease, which leads to blindness.

Steps will be taken to prevent the disease by attacking the carrier with larvicide and, at the same time, therapeutic means will be employed in the form of intra-muscular injections which destroy the filaria situated in the human body.

The campaign will be aimed at the principal focal points in the infected areas of the three countries and will include the treatment of some 400 000 patients. The disease will be almost entirely wiped out from these areas, for it is reckoned that between 85 and 90% of the patients treated will be cured, and the population as a whole (1 500 000) will be protected against risk of infection.

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Annexe : VI

SURVEY OF THE AGONVY PALM PLANTATION IN DAHOMEY

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission approved the financing by grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF) of a technical assistance scheme connected with investments in Dahomey. The scheme, which had been endorsed by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting, will cost 87 500 000 Frs. CFA or some 354 000 units of account (= US dollars).

The growing of selected oil palms will be developed on a co-operative basis and integrated with the cultivation of food and, possibly, industrial crops as a whole and will be organized in the form of a co-operative. The project specially concerns the introduction of oil-palm cultivation in plantations to the north and south of Agonvy (some 6 000 ha) and preparations for a national programme to be applied in this area. It follows and supplements a purely technical survey made by the Institut de Recherche des Huiles et Oléagineux (Paris) to select the land suitable for oil-palm cultivation.

Although palm oil is Dahomey's staple export, local consumption is increasing as the population grows rapidly and production is continually declining because the soil in these almost entirely natural palm plantations is being exhausted by food crops.

Consequently one of the Government's objectives is to replace the natural palm plantation progressively and methodically by plantations of selected palms. For this purpose the first EDF financed in 1961 a scheme for a palm plantation co-operative and oil mills in the Mono area. Experience has shown that a co-operative system and integration into a varied pattern of farming seem to offer the best hope of maintaining a certain level of competitiveness and enabling growers to spread the risk of price variations over a number of crops.

In principle the Dahomey Government plans to implement the national oil-palm plan at the rate of 4 co-operatives per year, each comprising about 600 ha of selected palms and an area for other crops suited to the needs of the local population.

Annexe : VIISURVEY OF WATER SUPPLY IN BAMAKO, MALI

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission approved the financing by grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF) of a technical assistance scheme connected with investments in Mali. The scheme, which had been endorsed by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting, will cost 40 million Mali francs or some 162 000 units of account (= US dollars).

A general survey will be made of the water supply for the city of Bamako, which has nearly 200 000 inhabitants. Owing to the growing shortage of water in the capital, the Mali Government planned, as first priority, to double the capacity of the present water purification station. It was apparent, however, that this solution would be insufficient in the medium and long term. Consequently, the Mali authorities preferred to postpone their programme of improvements and have a complete technical and economic survey carried out first.

This survey, which will be financed by the EDF, will include a master plan for increasing Bamako's water supply and a time-table establishing priorities in view of the growth of the capital. A detailed description and cost estimate will be provided for each step to be taken under the plan.

Annexe : VIII

SUPPLY OF ROAD-BUILDING EQUIPMENT FOR THE CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission approved the financing, by non-repayable grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF), of an economic infrastructure project in the Congo (Brazzaville), costing 230 million Frs. CFA or some 932 units of account (= US dollars). The EDF Committee had endorsed the project at its eleventh meeting.

Road-building equipment will be supplied to the Public Works sub-divisions in the Congo basin and the Batéké plateaux for the rebuilding, improvement and maintenance of the roads in these sectors.

It will be possible to set up two earth-moving squads and two remounting teams (for the Makoua-Gambona sectors) and a mobile squad for the road network centred round Djambala. Besides machinery and trucks, workshop and road-building tools and two machinery-carrying units will be supplied. A mechanic specialized in road-building equipment will be placed at the disposal of the Congolese Public Works department for two years to ensure that the equipment is utilized efficiently.

Annexe : IXEQUIPMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE NORTH OF CAMEROON AND SUPERVISION
OF THE WORK

On 14 October 1965, the EEC Commission approved the financing, by non-repayable grants from the second European Development Fund (EDF), of a social investment project in Cameroon (East Cameroon), costing 135 million Frs.CFA or some 547 000 units of account (= US dollars). The scheme had been endorsed by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting.

Equipment will be supplied for three hospitals, four medical centres and 22 rural dispensaries in the three northern departments of Diamare, Benoue and Adamaoua. It will include two surgical units, five X-ray and surgical units, technical and working plant, and several generating units. The hospitals and other installations are being built with funds from the first EDF. The cost of supervising the work is provided under the present scheme.

It must be pointed out that the whole scheme will increase the capacity of the hospitals in the three departments concerned by 658 beds. Furthermore, with seven new surgical centres and a further five radiology centres, it will be possible to avoid, or reduce to a few exceptional cases, the transportation of urgent cases, sometimes - especially in Adamaoua - over average distances of some 300 to 400 km. The 22 rural dispensaries, while improving the medical services in the region, will also help to encourage a partly nomadic population to take root.

At national level, social investment of this magnitude corresponds to the Federal Government's desire to promote social amenities in the north of the country, which at present is at a disadvantage by comparison with the south. The scheme completes the measures to be taken in three of the six departments of the region; the Government is now studying the programme for a second instalment of works to be carried out in the other three departments.

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Annexe : X

EDF AID TO SUPPORT COCOA PRICES IN CAMEROON

On 14 October 1965 the EEC Commission approved the grant by the European Development Fund, from its liquid assets, of a short-term advance of 6 076 490 u.a. (= US dollars) or 1 500 million Frs. CFA to the Cocoa Price Stabilization Fund in Cameroon. The operation had been approved by the EDF Committee at its eleventh meeting.

The request had been made on 23 July 1965 by the Cameroon Government by virtue of Article 17(4) and Article 20 of the Yaoundé Convention, under which the EDF may grant, from its liquid assets and up to a ceiling of 50 million u.a., advances for the purpose "of helping to alleviate the effects of temporary fluctuations in world prices".

This is the case of the present grant, which is intended to help Cameroon's Stabilization Fund to overcome the serious financial difficulties it has been experiencing since the collapse of cocoa prices during the 1964/65 marketing year. The money will be used on the one hand to offset in part the loss of export earnings caused by the fall in cocoa prices (this loss is estimated at 23 million u.a. for the year 1964/65), and, on the other hand, to maintain during the 1965/66 year the grower's price of 50 Frs.CFA per kg., which in any case is approximately 40% lower than the 80 Frs.CFA of the previous marketing year. It must be pointed out that at less than 50 Frs.CFA per kg. it would not be worth the growers' while to harvest the crop.

This is the first time since the entry into force of the Yaoundé Convention that the EDF has been called on to provide aid in order to stabilize prices.