



*European Communities*  
*Commission*  
*Press Release*

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COMMISSION APPROVES FIRST GRANTS FROM REGIONAL FUND:  
\* 160 MILLION U.A. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT REGIONS  
SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON JOBS

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The Commission today announced its decision to grant financial aid to the member governments in respect of 655 investment projects representing a total investment of 1,254 m.u.a. in the Community's less-favoured regions. The total Regional Fund aid involved is 160 m.u.a., which is just over half of the 300 m.u.a. available during 1975. This is the first allocation of funds from the European Regional Development Fund. The remaining funds for this year will be allocated in December.

Infrastructure projects account for 100 m.u.a. (448 projects) including 10 m.u.a. (95 projects) for rural infrastructure in deprived areas. The remaining 60 m.u.a. are for 207 investment projects in the industrial, handicraft and service sectors, creating or maintaining over 36,000 jobs.

The attached lists give a national and regional breakdown of the aids granted. Clearly one must not try to assess the overall impact of the Regional Fund, which will have a continuing activity, on the basis of this first allocation of grants. Any initial imbalances between regions or different types of projects will be ironed out as future allocations are made.

It will be remembered that the European Regional Development Fund was established on March 18, 1975 (1), with a total of 1,300 m.u.a. at its disposal over the three years 1975-77. The Fund's resources are used to part-finance certain types of regional aid which the governments give thus releasing national resources which can then be used to finance other regional development projects. Thus the combination of national and Community funds can help a larger total number of projects, and create a larger number of new jobs. This will help reduce regional disparities which are greater at Community than at national level.

The Fund can help finance industrial, handicraft and service investments in the regions which are eligible for national regional aids and which aim to create new jobs or help safeguard existing ones which might otherwise be threatened. It can also help finance infrastructure projects which are directly linked to the type of job-creating investments referred to above. Examples of such projects approved this time are in the fields of industrial estates, transport and communications

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(1) O.J. No. L73, 21.3.1975

\* 2.4 units of account = £1, i.e. 160 m.u.c. = £66.6m

and energy supply. Thirdly, the Fund can also aid certain types of infrastructure projects in agricultural areas facing special problems of geography, climate, etc. (mountain areas, for example).

As far as this first allocation is concerned, the applications were received from governments between early August and mid-September. They were processed by the Regional Policy Directorate General, in consultation with other services, in time to be sent to the members of the Management Committee at the end of September.

The Committee met to give its opinion on October 14/15, after which the Commission was able to take its decision. The speed at which the applications have been dealt with was greatly helped by using a standard form of application and by the many bilateral contacts which took place between the Commission's services and the member governments in order to determine which of the projects proposed to us were suitable to receive aid from the Regional Fund.

Although all regions in receipt of national regional aid are technically eligible for ERDF grant, the regulation states that priority will be given to regions receiving priority under national systems. The Commission strongly favours concentrating ERDF aid.

On this first occasion the majority of applications submitted are for projects already under way rather than for new projects. It is assumed that emphasis in future will be more on new projects.

From the end of 1977 aid will be granted only to those regions for which the government concerned has prepared and presented a development programme for the region as a whole. Last week the Regional Policy Committee adopted an outline scheme which all countries will follow in preparing their development programmes.

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lère allocation du  
Fonds Européen de Développement Régional

Octobre 1975

	I. Activités industr., artisanales et de serv.				II. Infrastructures		III. Infrast. rurales		IV. Totaux	
	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Emplois créés	Emplois maintenus	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)
<u>ANMARK</u>										
Grønland	-	-	-	-	25	3,250	-	-	25	3,250
Autres régions	9	0,620	485	147	-	-	-	-	9	0,620
Total	9	0,620	485	147	25	3,250	-	-	34	3,870
<u>UNDESREPUBLIK EUTSCHLAND</u>										
Schleswig-Holstein	-	-	-	-	1	0,801	-	-	1	0,801
Niedersachsen	1	0,310	124	-	5	0,669	-	-	6	0,979
Rheinland-Pfalz	-	-	-	-	3	0,370	-	-	3	0,370
Bayern	-	-	-	-	8	1,369	-	-	8	1,369
Saarland	1	1,707	400	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,707
Berlin	-	-	-	-	1	1,000	-	-	1	1,000
Total	2	2,017	524	-	18	4,209	-	-	20	6,226

	I. Activités industr., artisanales et de serv.				II. Infrastructures		III. Infrast. rurales		IV. Totaux	
	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Emplois créés	Emplois maintenus	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)
<b>FRANCE</b>										
Poitou-Charentes	4	0,250	602	-	-	-	-	-	4	0,250
Pays de la Loire	16	1,740	3151	-	-	-	-	-	16	1,740
Basse Normandie	7	1,380	1393	720	-	-	-	-	7	1,380
Midi-Pyrénées	8	0,700	1293	-	-	-	3	1,490	11	2,190
Bretagne	11	1,130	1658	-	-	-	-	-	11	1,130
Languedoc-Roussil.	9	0,760	1233	-	-	-	1	0,320	10	1,080
Limousin	5	0,490	439	-	-	-	1	1,330	6	1,820
Auvergne	4	0,170	265	-	-	-	1	0,740	5	0,910
Aquitaine	8	1,510	2515	-	-	-	-	-	8	1,510
Lorraine	18	2,750	2887	-	-	-	-	-	18	2,750
Rhône-Alpes	10	1,540	2022	-	-	-	-	-	10	1,540
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	11	0,830	2011	-	-	-	-	-	11	0,830
Bourgogne	5	0,310	647	-	-	-	-	-	5	0,310
Picardie	1	0,003	70	-	-	-	-	-	1	0,003
Champagne-Ardenne	4	0,590	614	-	-	-	-	-	4	0,590
Haute-Normandie	1	0,230	250	-	-	-	-	-	1	0,230
Alsace	6	0,510	804	-	-	-	-	-	6	0,510
Franche-Comté	1	0,007	30	-	-	-	-	-	1	0,007
Provence-Côte d'Azur	2	0,050	93	-	-	-	-	-	2	0,050
Corse	-	-	-	-	3	2,430	-	-	3	2,430
Guyane	-	-	-	-	1	0,220	-	-	1	0,220
Guadeloupe	-	-	-	-	6	0,440	-	-	6	0,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>14,950</b>	<b>21.966</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,880</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>21,920</b>

	I. Activités industr., artis. et de service				II. Infrastructures		III. Infrastr.rurales		IV. Totaux	
	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Emplois créés	Emplois maintenus	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de projets	Aides (muc)
<u>RELAND</u>										
Donegal	4		372	-	11		-	-	15	
North West	1		57	-	5		-	-	6	
West	6		752	-	9		-	-	15	
Mid West	3		314	-	4		-	-	7	
South West	8		420	-	4		-	-	12	
South East	4		675	-	3		-	-	7	
Midlands	6		745	60	7		-	-	13	
East	2		292	-	3		-	-	5	
North East	6		330	-	2		-	-	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8,108</b>	<b>3.957</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6,105</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>14,213</b>
<u>TALIA</u>										
Abruzzi	3	0,550	216	-	-	-	5	0,180	8	0,730
Basilicata	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	1,660	26	1,660
Calabria	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	2,150	27	2,150
Campania	1	1,050	1.054	-	-	-	13	0,440	14	1,490
Lazio	7	19,120	3.037	-	1	2,800	2	0,200	10	22,120
Marche	1	1,160	170	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,160
Molise	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0,340	3	0,340
Puglia	10	9,427	3.521	-	3	14,400	-	-	13	23,827
Sardegna	3	3,080	332	-	6	10,870	8	1,300	17	15,250
Sicilia	-	-	-	-	2	17,800	5	0,310	7	18,110
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34,387</b>	<b>8.330</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>45,870</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>6,580</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>86,837</b>

	I. Activités indust. artisanales et de serv.				II. Infrastructures		III. Infrastr. rurales		IV. Totaux	
	Nombre de Projets	Aides (muc)	Emplois créés	Emplois maintenus	Nombre de Projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de Projets	Aides (muc)	Nombre de Projets	Aides (muc)
<u>LUXEMBOURG</u>	-	-	-	-	1	0,750	-	-	1	0,750
<u>NEDERLAND</u>										
Groningen	-	-	-	-	2	3,486	-	-	2	2,486
Zuid-Limburg	-	-	-	-	1	2,100	-	-	1	2,100
Total	-	-	-	-	3	5,586	-	-	3	5,586
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>										
N. England	-	-	-	-	49	3,472	-	-	49	3,472
N.W. England	-	-	-	-	26	2,535	-	-	26	2,535
Yorks & Humberside	-	-	-	-	20	1,425	-	-	20	1,425
E. Midlands	-	-	-	-	3	0,146	-	-	3	0,146
S.W. England	-	-	-	-	23	0,718	-	-	23	0,718
Scotland	-	-	-	-	61	4,092	-	-	61	4,092
Wales	-	-	-	-	46	5,979	-	-	46	5,979
N. Ireland	-	-	-	-	8	2,864	-	-	8	2,864
Total	-	-	-	-	236	21,231	-	-	236	21,231