

European Communities

---

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1 9 8 4 - 1 9 8 5

---

26 March 1984

DOCUMENT 1-36/84

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs  
and Employment

on the guidelines for the management of the ESF in  
the financial years 1985 - 1987 (COM(83) 711 final)

Rapporteur: Mr R. CHANTERIE

PE 89.191/fin.  
Or. Ne.



By letter of 9 February 1984<sup>1</sup>, the Commission of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament and its Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Decision No. 83/516/EEC, on the proposal from the Commission for guidelines for the management of the European Social Fund in the financial years 1985-1987.

The Commission's request for an opinion is one of the results of the conciliation procedure in respect of the European Social Fund and in order to enable Parliament to report thereon pursuant to Rule 38(4) of the Rules of Procedure, by the deadline stipulated on 10 February 1984 the President of the European Parliament authorized the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment to hold a special meeting in Strasbourg on 15 February 1984.

On 15 February 1984 the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment appointed Mr CHANTERIE rapporteur.

It considered the proposal at its meetings of 15 February, 24 February and 19 March 1984.

At the last meeting it decided by 13 votes to nil with one abstention to approve the motion for a resolution.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Frischmann, acting chairman; Mr Chanterie, rapporteur; Mr Bournias (deputizing for Mr Ghergo), Mr Calvez, Mrs Dury (deputizing for Ms Clwyd), Mr Eisma, Mrs Maij-Weggen, Mr McCartin, Mrs Pauwelyn, Mr Prag, Mr Salisch, Mr J. Taylor (deputizing for Mr Patterson), Mr Tuckman, Mr Vernimmen (deputizing for Mr Van Minnen) and Mr Wawrzik (deputizing for Mr Brok).

The explanatory statement will be presented orally.

The report was tabled on 20 March 1984.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Annex I to this report

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 289/83, p. 38

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
Annex I : Letter of 9 February 1984 from Commissioner I. RICHARD to Mr DANKERT	7
Annex II: Commission guidelines for the management of the European Social Fund in the financial years 1984 to 1986 (OJ No. C 5, 10.1.1984)	8

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the guidelines for the management of the ESF in the financial years 1985-1987,

The European Parliament,

- having been consulted, by the Commission, by letter from Commissioner I. Richard of 9 February 1984<sup>1</sup>, pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Decision No. 83/516/EEC<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 18 November 1983 on the outcome of the conciliation meeting between Parliament and the Council on the review of the texts relating to the reform of the ESF<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment (Doc. 1-36/84),
1. Approves, subject to what follows, the Commission proposal that the guidelines for 1984-86, laid down on 21 December 1983<sup>4</sup>, be extended to cover the period 1985-1987;
  2. Agrees with the Commission that, before further changes are made to the provisions for the management of the Fund, experience should be obtained with the present provisions;
  3. Expects the Commission to assess the relevant applications within the time-limit laid down, in order to guarantee that the resources of the ESF are allocated in their entirety;
  4. Expects also that, when making the assessment, the Commission will give fullest possible consideration to the feasibility of each project so that contributions made unnecessarily from the Fund do not remain unused and have to be claimed back;

Underlines the need to ensure that the guidelines pay sufficient attention to the interests of non-governmental organizations which wish to apply for money from the Funds;

-----  
<sup>1</sup> See Annex to this report

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 289, 22.10.1983, p.38

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. C 342, 19.12.1983, p.150

<sup>4</sup> OJ No. c 5, 10.1.1984, p.2

5. Expects, lastly, that allocations will be made in such a way that the overall picture clearly reflects the new and more effective system, i.e. the simplification of the administrative rules, speedier operation and emphasis on projects relating to young people and high-priority regions;
6. Calls on the Commission, as it has already more than once in the past, to instruct its appropriate department to prepare a simple, easily understood pamphlet containing all relevant information for the use of the various applicants for contributions from the Fund, who are often not familiar with legal texts;
7. Reaffirms paragraph 6 of its resolution of 18 November 1983, in which
  - (i) the Commission is called on '... to submit, by 1 July 1984, proposals for selection criteria for applications from the non-priority regions' and
  - (ii) the Council is called on '... to consult Parliament on these proposals and, if need be, to agree to the opening of a further conciliation procedure..' in view of the difficulties associated with the fact that this aspect is missing from the reform of the Fund;
8. Points out therefore that the updating of the available statistical material must be undertaken swiftly if the Commission wishes to be able to submit the proposals referred to in the previous paragraph at the appropriate time to the Council and Parliament;
9. Points out in this context that the resolution adopted by the Council on 8 December 1983 on employment opportunities for young people offers few points of departure for a practical Community policy in this field and urges the Commission to submit practical proposals;
10. Notes that, according to the Commission, there are no longer limits on the appropriations available for projects for young people, women and disabled persons and assumes therefore that this will be clearly evidenced by the allocation of appropriations;
11. Wishes also in future to be consulted every year on adjustments to the guidelines and therefore calls on the Commission to refer the new proposals on each occasion as early as possible to the European Parliament;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities.

9 February 1984

Mr Piet Dankert  
President of the European Parliament  
97/113 rue Belliard  
1040 Brussels

*Dear Mr. President*

The Guidelines for the management of the Social Fund for the period 1985-87 are due to be adopted by the Commission by 1 May 1984 in conformity with Article 6(1) of the Council Decision 83/516/EEC. In preparing these Guidelines, the Commission will take account of any views expressed by the European Parliament in accordance with Article 6(2) of the same Decision.

In the light of President Thorn's letter to you dated 17 October 1983, we have made contact with the Secretariat of the Social Affairs Committee of the Parliament. I should now like to confirm to you that, on behalf of the Commission, I will be pleased to attend the special meeting of the Social Affairs Committee on the Social Fund Guidelines which is planned for 15 February in Strasbourg.

With a view to facilitating the expression of the Committee's views on the Guidelines, I would suggest that the existing text of the Guidelines for the period 1984-86, adopted by the Commission on 21 December and published in the Official Journal on 10 January 1984 (No C5), would provide an appropriate basis for discussion. Without prejudice of course to the final decision by the Commission on the new Guidelines, I can nevertheless inform you that I do not envisage making any major changes to the existing text, particularly given the need for some degree of continuity and stability for promoters, a need which is all the more evident after the introduction this year of new legal provisions and procedures governing the Social Fund.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*I. Richard*

Ivor Richard

**Commission guidelines for the management of the European Social Fund in the financial years 1984 to 1986**

(84/C 5/02)

In view of the disproportion between the volume of applications for aid and available appropriations, the Commission shall, pursuant to Article 6 (1) of Decision 83/516/EEC (\*) on the tasks of the European Social Fund, decide on eligible applications in accordance with the following factors:

**I. The concentration of Fund appropriations provided for in Article 7 of Decision 83/516/EEC on projects:**

- aimed at young people, the appropriations allocated to such projects not to be lower in any one year than 75 % of all appropriations available,
- aimed at promoting employment in Greenland, Greece, the French overseas departments, Ireland, the Mezzogiorno and Northern Ireland; the appropriations allocated to such projects must be equal to 40 % of available appropriations for all the projects referred to in Article 3 (1) of Decision 83/516/EEC, and projects aimed at developing employment in the other areas of high unemployment and/or industrial and sectoral restructuring.

**II. The granting of priority to operations corresponding to Community objectives in employment and vocational training, as defined in the following resolutions:**

- Council resolution of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the European Community in the 1980s (†),
- Council resolution of 2 June 1983 concerning vocational training measures relating to new information technologies (‡),
- Council resolution of 12 July 1982 on Community action to combat unemployment (§),
- Council resolution of 12 July 1982 on the promotion of equal opportunities for women (¶),

— Council resolution of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Communities, meeting within the Council of 21 December 1981, on the social integration of handicapped people (\*),

— Council resolution of 27 June 1980 on guidelines for a Community labour market policy (†),

— Council resolution of 18 December 1979 on linked work and training for young persons (‡),

— Council resolution of 9 February 1976 on an action programme for migrant workers and members of their families (§).

**III. Priority to be accorded to specific actions of an innovatory character carried out in the framework of action programmes decided by the Council and aimed at developing Member State policies and practices corresponding to the Community objectives indicated under point 2.**

**1. CONCENTRATION OF FUND APPROPRIATIONS**

(Article 3 (1) of Decision 83/516/EEC)

In addition to Greenland, Greece, French overseas departments, Ireland, the Mezzogiorno and Northern Ireland, the other zones of high and long-term unemployment and/or industrial and sectoral restructuring (Article 7 (3) of Decision 83/516/EEC) are shown in the attached list.

**2. PRIORITY FOR ACTIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES**

(Article 3 (1) of Decision 83/516/EEC)

- 2.1. Operations referred to in this section from A to F shall be priority in Greenland, Greece, French overseas departments, Ireland, the Mezzogiorno and Northern Ireland and in the other zones indicated at point 1 above.

(\*) OJ No L 289, 22. 10. 1983, p. 38.

(†) OJ No C 193, 20. 7. 1983, p. 2.

(‡) OJ No C 166, 25. 6. 1983, p. 1.

(§) OJ No C 186, 21. 7. 1982, p. 1.

(¶) OJ No C 186, 21. 7. 1982, p. 3.

(\*) OJ No C 347, 31. 12. 1981, p. 1.

(†) OJ No C 168, 8. 7. 1980, p. 1.

(‡) OJ No C 1, 3. 1. 1980, p. 1.

(§) OJ No C 34, 14. 2. 1976, p. 2.



2.2. In response to certain Community objectives, in particular those relating to the introduction of new technology, and in order to give scope to operations carried out in areas where the unemployment rate is exceptionally high in comparison with the national average, some of the operations listed below in Sections A to F are priority outside the areas indicated in paragraph 2.1. Where priority is not to be limited to these regions and zones this is expressly stated.

**A. JOINT AID FROM SEVERAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

Operations which are part of integrated operations, actions or programmes receiving aid from several Community instruments. In the case of such operations priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.

**B. JOINT OPERATIONS**

Operations carried out jointly by several Member States. In the case of such operations priority shall not be subject to regional limitation.

**C. VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT (\*)**

C.1. Operations immediately after the end of full-time compulsory education to further the employment of young people under 25, consisting of basic vocational training leading to real prospects of stable employment and including work experience in the framework of a programme lasting a total of at least six months.

C.2. Operations to further the employment of young people under 25, whose qualifications have through experience proved to be inadequate or inappropriate, consisting of full-time or part-time vocational training aimed at equipping them with higher skills and qualifications adapted to labour market developments, facilitating the introduction of new technology in particular, and leading to real prospects of stable employment.

C.3. Operations providing vocational training directly linked to the obtaining of a job contract of a duration of more than one

year. In the case of such operations priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.

**D. INDUSTRIAL AND SECTORAL RECONVERSION AND RESTRUCTURING: TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE (\*)**

D.1. Operations to promote employment which accompany restructuring or reconversion measures in one or more undertakings.

D.2. Vocational training operations for persons employed in small and medium-sized undertakings (employing not more than 500) who require retraining as a result of the introduction of new technology which substantially alters management or production techniques in those undertakings. In the case of such operations priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.

D.3. Vocational training operations leading directly to specific jobs in small or medium-sized undertakings to promote applied research in the development of new products, services or production processes in the following sectors: information technology, micro-electronics, telecommunications, new means of transport, automation of production processes, optical fibres, bio-technology, new forms of energy, protection of the environment. The undertakings in question must not employ more than 500 persons. For these operations, priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.

D.4. Operations providing vocational training for persons to take up posts as instructors in new initiatives enabling training structures to be adapted to the needs of the sectors indicated in D.3.

**E. LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

E.1. Operations providing vocational training, including preparatory training, for persons over the age of 25 who have been

(\*) This paragraph concerns operations confined to young people. The operations referred to in other paragraphs in Sections 2 and 3 can obviously also apply to young people.

(\*) This paragraph concerns operations specifically linked to industrial reconversion and innovation, particularly in order to facilitate the introduction of new technology. The operations referred to in other paragraphs in Sections 2 and 3 can also obviously meet this objective.

unemployed for more than 12 months, which significantly improve the prospects of stable employment.

- E.2. Operations providing vocational training, including preparatory training, for unemployed persons or those threatened with unemployment or underemployed carried out in Greenland, Greece, French overseas departments, Ireland, the Mezzogiorno and Northern Ireland.
- E.3. Operations concerning recruitment to additional and permanent jobs or operations concerning employment in projects for the creation of additional jobs which fulfil a public need.
- E.4. Operations forming part of local initiatives aimed at the creation of additional jobs or the socio-occupational integration of categories of persons disadvantaged in relation to employment and operations for development agents aimed at promoting such initiatives. Priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.
- E.5. Operations involving vocational training and full-time or part-time employment and linked with measures to create additional jobs through a reorganization or a reduction in working time agreed between the social partners.
- E.6. Operations, excluding assistance towards the salary costs of public servants, for persons to take up posts as instructors, vocational guidance or placement experts, to further employment in Greenland, Greece, French overseas departments, Ireland, the Mezzogiorno and Northern Ireland. Where such operations are carried out to further the employment of women and the desegregation of the labour market or to further the employment and integration of migrant workers or of disabled persons, priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.
- F. SOCIO-OCCUPATIONAL INTEGRATION OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PERSONS**
- F.1. Operations designed specially for women who are unemployed, threatened with unemployment, underemployed or wishing to return to work, to promote a more even mix of the sexes in jobs in which they are

underrepresented. Where such operations include vocational training, they shall also include preparation for working life, acquisition of basic knowledge of techniques and technological innovations and measures for socio-occupational integration or re-integration. For these operations, priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.

- F.2. Operations designed specially for migrant workers and members of their families:
- to assist their integration into the host country with vocational training combined with language training,
  - to maintain knowledge of the mother tongue and provide vocational training combined, if necessary, with refresher language courses when they wish to return to the labour market of their country of origin, this applying solely to nationals of Member States.
- For these operations, priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.
- F.3. Operations designed specially for vocational training and/or the adaptation of work places for disabled people who are capable of working in the open labour market. For operations focussed on the adaptation of work places, priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.

### 3. PRIORITY FOR SPECIFIC OPERATIONS OF AN INNOVATORY CHARACTER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

(Article 3 (2) of Decision 83/516/EEC)

Priority operations shall be those which encourage the implementation of innovatory projects which meet all the following criteria:

- carried out within the framework of a programme of action adopted by the Council (<sup>(1)</sup>),
- designed to contribute to the development of policy and the improvement of practice of the Member States related to the Community objectives referred to in paragraph 2,
- offering a possible basis for future Fund intervention under Article 3 (1) of Decision 83/516/EEC,

(<sup>1</sup>) See Section II.

- aimed at methodically validating new working hypotheses concerning, for example, content, methodology, organization of training or vocational guidance, with a view to wider application. Such hypotheses should be considered in the context of needs, expectations, and current practices in a particular region,
- associating closely the parties involved, including the social partners, at the planning and operational stage,
- including evaluation,
- concerning not more than 100 people.

For these operations the priority shall not be subject to a regional limitation.

#### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF FUND ASSISTANCE

(Article 3 (2) of Decision 83/516/EEC)

- 4.1. The Commission will examine the effectiveness of operations carried out in favour of certain categories of persons, and of certain types of expenditure for which assistance is given.
- 4.2. The Commission reserves the right to include with the assistance granted for certain operations additional assistance for the financing of an examination of effectiveness.

#### 5. EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

(Article 3 (2) of Decision 83/516/EEC)

The Commission intends to encourage exchanges of experience relating to the results of certain operations which it has approved.

#### 6. APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Commission shall approve applications for assistance by budgetary item starting with the priority applications.
- 6.2. When available appropriations are insufficient to finance in full the applications submitted under Article 3 (1) of Decision 83/516/EEC, a reduction is applied.

6.3. For applications relating to Greenland, Greece, the French overseas departments, Ireland, the Mezzogiorno and Northern Ireland, the reduction is calculated on a linear basis on the volume of these remaining to be approved for each Member State.

6.4. For applications relating to the other areas, the reduction is calculated on the volume of those remaining to be approved for each Member State on the basis of its gross domestic product *per capita* at current exchange rates and its unemployment rate, the areas covered by the linear reduction described in 6.3 being discounted for the calculation of the unemployment rate.

6.5. The Commission, after consulting the Member States, shall select the applications relating to operations or areas to be fully financed, taking account of cases where Community assistance is of particular importance to the carrying-out of the operations and the promotion of new operations. In regard to the choice of areas, the Commission shall take account of particularly severe regional employment imbalances.

#### 7. FINAL POINTS

7.1. Operations providing only information or refresher training are not regarded as vocational training operations.

7.2. The long-term unemployed, as provided for under Article 1 (c) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2950/83, are taken to be those who have been unemployed for more than 12 months.

7.3. It is pointed out that the Commission, in applying these guidelines, shall ensure consistency between its decisions on granting aid and other Community policies, especially with regard to observance of the rules of competition concerning State aids and the measures taken concerning the framework of aids.

## ANNEX

**List of areas of high and long-term unemployment and/or industrial and sectoral restructuring**

For a transition period and with a view to maintaining a degree of continuity with the regional priorities of the Fund in 1983, the concentration of appropriations as indicated in the second sentence of paragraph 3 of Article 7 of Decision 83/516/EEC will be based on a list comprising all the priority areas (with the exception of those benefiting from a higher rate of intervention) defined under the former rules, and areas of industrial and sectoral restructuring.

1. Fund appropriations will thus be concentrated on operations in respect of employment in the following areas:
  - 1.1. BELGIUM  
Provinces of Antwerpen, Oost-Vlaanderen, West-Vlaanderen, Limburg, Brabant, Hainaut, Liège, Namur, Luxembourg.
  - 1.2. DENMARK  
København and Frederiksberg kommuner; amtskommunerne Bornholm, Vestsjælland, Storstrommen, Fyn, Ribe, Vejle, Århus, Viborg, Nordjylland, Sønderjylland, Ringkøbing.
  - 1.3. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
Länder Schleswig-Holstein, Saarland, Berlin; Regierungsbezirke Weser-Ems, Hannover, Trier.
  - 1.4. FRANCE  
Régions de programme Champagne-Ardenne, Picardie, Haute-Normandie, Centre, Basse-Normandie, Bourgogne, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Lorraine, Franche-Comté, Pays de la Loire, Bretagne, Poitou-Charentes, Aquitaine, Limousin, Midi-Pyrénées, Rhône-Alpes, Auvergne, Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Corse.
  - 1.5. ITALY  
Regioni Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Piemonte, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna, Toscana, Umbria, Lazio.
  - 1.6. LUXEMBOURG  
The whole country.
  - 1.7. NETHERLANDS  
Provinces of Groningen and Limburg. Regions: Zuidoost-Noord-Brabant, Midden-Noord-Brabant, Arnhem/Nijmegen, Achterhoek.
  - 1.8. UNITED KINGDOM  
Standard regions North, North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, West Midlands, Wales, Scotland.
2. For areas not included in paragraph 1, the list is completed by:
  - (a) areas qualifying as of 1 January 1984 under national regional aid systems in accordance with Article 92 of the Treaty and eligible for aid from the quota section of the European Regional Development Fund;
  - (b) areas of industrial and sectoral restructuring qualifying for aid from the European Regional Development Fund (non-quota section) as at present or proposed by the Commission.