



New Objective 1 CSFs

Spain, Greece, Ireland, Germany and Italy

In the course of June, the European Commission took decisions in principle on the five Community support frameworks (CSFs) for regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1) in Spain, Greece, Ireland, Germany and Italy. After consulting the committees provided for under the relevant legislation, it definitively adopted the Spanish Objective 1 CSF and the single programming documents (SPDs) for Hainaut (Belgium) and Flevoland (the Netherlands).

The documents, which are drawn up on the basis of the Member States' development

plans and approved by the national governments, set out the guidelines for Structural Fund assistance in the regions covered by Objective 1 in the countries concerned over the 1994-1999 period.

Once the CSFs are definitively adopted, the Member States involved will be able to put forward their proposals for operational programmes or other forms of assistance. Project promoters may submit their applications for cofinancing only once these programmes have been adopted by the Commission.

MECU = millions of ecus	Total investment planned (MECU)	Total investment planned ('000,000)	Contribution from the Structural Funds (MECU)	Contribution from the Structural Funds ('000,000)
Spain	48 904	7 771 921 PTA	26 300	4 179 649 PTA
Greece	29 721	8 487 961 DR	13 980	3 992 520 DR
Ireland	10 383	8 219 IRL	5 620	4 449 IRL
Germany	57 393	110 773 DM	13 640	26 326 DM
Italy	32 469	60 554 360 LIT	14 860	27 713 751 LIT

at the ecu exchange rate for 1 to 30 June 1994.

Spain (first reading completed on 1 June / definitively adopted on 1 July)

The CSF provides for four development priorities:

- improvement of productive capacity (industry, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, research and development, and technical assistance) (34.5% of the total investment provided for under the CSF);
- human resources and improvement of the quality of life (education and vocational training, employment, environmental protection and health) (33.4%);

- opening up access (roads, rail links, ports, airports and telecommunications) (24.8%);
- basic amenities (water and energy) (7.3%)

The new Spanish CSF differs from its predecessor in the following main features:

- a considerable increase in budget (the Structural Fund contribution for 1994 to 1999 is 2.5 times higher than for 1989 to 1993);
- greater concentration on improving productive capacity and the skills of the human resource base (offset by a reduction

in the proportion of funds earmarked for infrastructure to improve access);

- further regionalisation of the CSF (the regional sub-CSFs, which are the direct responsibility of the regional authorities, account for 35% of the CSF's total funds; and 90% of the programmes planned under the multiregional strand of the CSF will also be regionalised).

Greece (first reading completed on 15 June)

Five development priorities are planned:

- reducing isolation and promoting internal integration by developing major infrastructure projects (natural gas, Athens underground, railway network, and the north/south ("Pathe") and east/west ("Egnatia") motorways) (28% of total investment provided for under the CSF);
- improving living conditions (environment, health and urban transport) (9%);
- developing the economic fabric and improving competitiveness (foreign investment and new technology for industry, agricultural adjustment - particularly in line with the reform of the CAP -, tourism and culture) (25%);
- developing human resources and employment (12%);
- reducing disparities between regions and improving communication links with island areas (13 regional programmes) (26%).

Ireland (first reading completed on 15 June)

The CSF provides for four development priorities:

- productive sector (industrial competitiveness at international level, agricultural adjustment and development of fisheries and tourism) (54% of total investment);
- economic infrastructure (roads, railways and ports, Dublin, Cork and Shannon airports, Dublin public transport system, water supply and treatment, hospital facilities - new hospital in Tallaght) (19%);
- human resources (education and initial training, continuing training - in particular in management skills -, and training and employment promotion for unemployed people) (23%);
- urban and rural local development (4%).

Germany (first reading completed on 21 June)

The development priorities are as follows:

- production-related infrastructure (productive and flanking investment);
- SMEs (investment, services and training, and training for self-employed people);
- technological research and development;
- environmental protection and improvement (infrastructure, investment in businesses and services);
- development of human resources (training, employment of young people and unemployed people at risk of exclusion, and assistance and pilot projects);
- agriculture, development of rural areas and fisheries;
- technical assistance.

Italy (first reading completed on 29 June)

The assistance priorities are as follows:

- industry, crafts and business services (in particular for SMEs);
- communications;
- tourism;
- diversification, development of farming resources and rural development;
- fisheries;
- support infrastructure for economic activity;
- human resource development.

Compared with the previous period, the new Italian CSF lays greater emphasis on improving productive capacity, developing human resources and promoting research, while decreasing the share of funds earmarked for infrastructure, with the exception of transport infrastructure within the framework of the trans-European rail and road networks.

The contribution of the Structural Funds to the CSFs is split between a multiregional strand (51%) and a regional strand (49%), which itself breaks down as follows:

Abruzzi	3.2%	Molise	4%
Basilicata	8.2%	Puglia	16.8%
Calabria	11.9%	Sardinia	13.3%
Campania	21.2%	Sicily	21.4%

In brief

Minimum publicity rules

The Commission adopted a decision on information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance from the Structural Funds (ref.: OJ L152 of 18.06.1994, pp 39-43) on 31 May. The basic principle is that publicity on the ground is a matter for the national, regional and local authorities responsible for implementing the CSFs, Community initiatives and programmes. The measures planned include publishing the content of programmes, raising

the awareness of the business community, informing regional media and putting up billboards and commemorative plaques.

SPD for Hainaut and Flevoland

The single programming documents (SPDs) relating to Hainaut (Belgium) and Flevoland (the Netherlands) were definitively adopted by the Commission on 14 and 29 June. The relevant authorities (Région wallonne/ Provincie Flevoland-RBA) will be responsible for processing applications for cofinancing from potential beneficiaries.

