



## **Informal Council meeting of the ministers for spatial planning**

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**On the initiative of the German presidency, the spatial planning ministers of the Twelve and the four acceding countries held an informal Council meeting in Leipzig on 21 and 22 September.**

They confirmed the undertakings given at the informal Council meetings in Liège and Corfu as regards the establishment of a European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). On the basis of the ministers' work to date, the Spatial Development Committee, made up of representatives of the Member States and the Commission, has been briefed to submit an initial European Spatial Development Perspective in 1995.

They also recommended the setting up of a European observatory on spatial planning and stressed the need to intensify cooperation on spatial planning with non-member countries in Europe and the Mediterranean area. To that end, it is planned to organize a joint seminar with the Council of Europe in Prague in the autumn of 1995, and to invite representatives from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to an annual meeting of the Spatial Development Committee. The next informal Council meeting will be held in Strasbourg in March 1995.

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### **Europe 2000+**

One of the documents intended to help establish a European Spatial Development Perspective is the Commission communication "Europe 2000+", which Mr. Millan, the Commissioner responsible for regional policies, presented at Leipzig, and which summarizes all the work undertaken by the Commission in this field since 1991.

Among other things, Europe 2000+ highlights the disparity between the low rate of interregional mobility of the population and the high rate of job mobility resulting from the free movement of capital and technological developments. There is a risk that this disparity could create considerable economic and social tension in future.

Europe 2000+ also points to the need to take account of the impact of the large trans-European networks. These will have significant structural effects, and additional measures should be introduced to take advantage of their impact on the regions traversed: the linking up of secondary networks and the creation of new industrial zones.

Over and above the existing cooperation at transfrontier level, Europe 2000+ urges the Member States to cooperate on transnational spatial planning areas in order to deal with wider problems such as the protection and development of the Alps and of the Baltic, Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts.

# Plenary session of the Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions held its fourth plenary session on 26 and 27 September. Included on the agenda were: the Commission white paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, the Community approach to the development of the trans-European transport

network, and the interoperability of the European TGV network. Mr Millan, the Commissioner responsible for regional policies, presented the Europe 2000+ document to the meeting and took part in a debate on the principle of subsidiarity.

## All programmes for the new Länder (D) adopted

**In August and September the Commission approved funding for the 17 operational programmes implementing the Community support framework for the new Länder approved on 29 July.**

With one exception, all these operational programmes are "integrated", i.e. they are funded by contributions from at least two of the Structural Funds: the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), the ESF (European Social Fund), the EAGGF (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) Guidance Section, and the FIFG (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance).

Of the 17 programmes, six (reported in Inforegio News No 8) concentrate on regional economic development factors (business service infrastructure, assistance for SMEs, R&D, etc.) and are therefore covered by the ERDF.

Six others are for human resources development and the promotion of employment (training, guidance, etc.) and are therefore covered by the ESF. The five remaining programmes, which deal with the structural development of agriculture and rural areas (aid for farms, biotope protection, etc.) are covered by the EAGGF Guidance Section.

The six programmes covered by the ERDF provide for a total Structural Fund contribution of ECU 6 786.8 million, i.e. about half of the total amount which the Structural Funds are to make available to the five new Länder between now and 2000. The six ESF programmes will receive Community financing of ECU 3 919 million. The Community contribution to the five EAGGF Guidance Section programmes will be ECU 3 132 million.

## News in brief

### Meetings

The Bilbao international exposition centre is to host the next **Europartenariat** meeting on 21 and 22 November 1994. Some 500 SMEs from the north and north-west of Spain (Basque Country, Navarre, Rioja, Aragon, Cantabria, Asturias and Galicia) will be represented, in order to forge commercial, technological and financial links with other businesses in Europe, Latin America and the Mediterranean area. Information: DG XVI (Regional Policies), fax: +32 2 296 33 15

Another initiative supported by the European Commission, **Medpartenariat**, is intended to encourage SMEs in the Mediterranean area to enter international markets. The next event will be held in Cairo (Egypt) on 6 and 7 December. Information: DG XXIII (Enterprise Policy), fax: +32 2 296 60 48.

### A new BIC

The European BIC (Business and Innovation Centre) network, which supports the creation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in the less-favoured regions of the Union, now has a new centre in Burgos (Castilla-Leon, Spain).

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### Erratum

The total forecast cost of the single programming document for the development of Guadeloupe between 1994 and 1999 is ECU 794 million and not ECU 7 945 million as indicated in Inforegio News No 7. However, the figure converted into FF was correct.



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