



Final Objective 2 decisions

In December 1994 the Commission officially adopted all the programming documents for 1994-99 concerning assistance from the Structural Funds to the areas of the Community eligible under Objective 2 (economic and social conversion of declining industrial areas).

In the case of Spain, this took the form of a Community support framework (CSF) which provides for investment totalling ECU 3 487 million and a contribution from the Structural Funds of ECU 1 130 million. This CSF will be implemented in the form of a number of regional and multi-regional operational programmes to be prepared at a later date.

The regional breakdown of Community assistance is as follows: Catalonia ECU 510 073 000; Basque Country

ECU 325 923 000; Madrid ECU 144 959 000; Aragón ECU 64 234 000; Navarre ECU 22 825 000; Rioja ECU 11 867 000; Balearic Islands ECU 10 369 000; multi-regional measures ECU 39 750 000.

The other Member States eligible under Objective 2 (Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and the United Kingdom) opted instead for the simplified procedure of the single programming document (SPD), which includes both the development strategy and the operational measures.

The 44 Objective 2 programming documents referred to in Newsletter No 11 were approved in their definitive form in December 1994.

The main features of the last 20 SPDs, which too have now been adopted in their final form and hence are now operational, are as follows:

Region concerned	Total investment in million ecus	SF contribution in million ecus	Region concerned	Total investment in million ecus	SF contribution in million ecus
B Liège	314.18	88.5	Gibraltar	11.50	5.0
F Centre	108.43	24.2	Gr. Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire	814.54	329.0
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	923.08	318.1	Industrial South Wales	526.37	188.0
Poitou-Charentes	130.72	53.3	North East England	723.68	308.0
I Marche	57.04	21.0	Plymouth	69.24	29.0
Veneto	223.74	71.0	Thanet	69.14	14.0
NL Groningen-Drenthe	252.73	76.0	West Midlands	938.40	371.0
UK East London and the Lee Valley	191.25	74.0	West Cumbria and Furness	65.25	25.0
East Midlands	218.24	79.0	Western Scotland	660.26	286.0
Eastern Scotland	292.36	121.0	Yorkshire and Humberside	813.70	313.0

Financial allocation for Konver

On 21 December 1994, the Commission adopted the allocation among the Member States of the ECU 500 million available for the Konver Community Initiative, which is intended to assist the conversion of areas affected by job losses in defence activities or in military bases and facilities.

The allocation by country is as follows:

B: ECU 11.45 million I: ECU 45.30 million
 DK: ECU 2.35 million L: ECU 0.35 million
 D: ECU 219.35 million NL: ECU 11.45 million
 GR: ECU 12.75 million P: ECU 7.80 million
 E: ECU 23.30 million UK: ECU 95.70 million
 F: ECU 70.20 million

Objective 1 programming

At the end of 1994, the Commission approved finance for a series of programmes and other assistance for the regions whose development is lagging behind.

Region / field concerned	Total investment in million ecus	Structural Funds contribution in million ecus
Spain		
<i>Three regional programmes:</i>		
Andalusia	5 558.450	2 938.919
Doñana II (Andalusia) (special Community contribution: ECU 105 million)	225.490	40.663
Cantabria II	158.572	105.000
<i>Two sectoral programmes:</i>		
Urban environment	828.592	580.644
Scientific infrastructure	479.410	342.170
<i>One global grant:</i>		
Industrial technological development	482.530	150.190
Greece		
<i>Three sectoral programmes:</i>		
Railways	490.100	294.100
Urban development	1 566.000	783.000
Roads, ports and airports	3 182.400	1 327.400
Ireland		
<i>Two sectoral programmes:</i>		
Agriculture, forestry and rural development	1 766.980	914.800
Local development	420.900	257.000
Italy		
<i>Three regional programmes:</i>		
Basilicata	743.000	368.000
Calabria	1 308.000	580.300
Molise	521.020	292.000
<i>Three sectoral programmes:</i>		
Railways	1 757.000	701.000
Technological research and development	1 341.570	600.000
Telecommunications	1 076.000	377.000
Portugal		
<i>One technical assistance programme</i>		
	135.600	101.600
<i>One Community Initiative programme:</i>		
Resider II	10.700	6.900
<i>A series of pilot projects under the Community Initiative on «Textiles and clothing in Portugal»</i>		
		2.000

Mrs Monika Wulf- Mathies before the European Parliament

On 6 January, Mrs Monika Wulf-Mathies appeared before Parliament's Committee on Regional Policy and members of the Committees on Social Affairs, the Environment and Transport. Mrs Wulf-Mathies is the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for regional policies, relations with the Committee of the Regions and the Cohesion Fund (the last of which tasks is carried out in accord with other Members).

Mrs Wulf-Mathies saw the fight against unemployment as the keystone of all the Community policies. She stated that her role in the new Commission would be that of an advocate of a global strategy for the creation of jobs with a future.

As far as the whole sector of cohesion policy was concerned, she wanted the rule of unanimity in the Council to be abandoned in favour of a co-decision procedure. She also wished to see planning policy given legal form in the revised Maastricht Treaty.

Structural measures would continue to concentrate on the Objective 1 regions, particularly those in Spain, Greece, Ireland and Portugal. However, the Commission would have to develop new guidelines for a cohesion strategy in good time for the inter-governmental conference in 1996. Mrs Wulf-Mathies went on to say that preparation for the accession of Central and Eastern European states would certainly require changes in regional policy, although without abandoning the aims of cohesion for the poorest regions of the 15.

Consideration should also be given to how structural policy could help the greatest possible number of Member States achieve the third phase of economic and monetary union. Mrs Wulf-Mathies intended greater efficiency to result in achieving more with the same funding. She went on to say: "I will therefore be doing my best to ensure that the regional and local levels, and the social partners, are involved more closely in programming and programme implementation."

She concluded by recognizing that the proper monitoring of financial flows and the evaluation of project success rates would remain "a hot topic." She wished to pursue particularly the problems of waste and fraud which were "exercising all of us and poisoning the political atmosphere."

