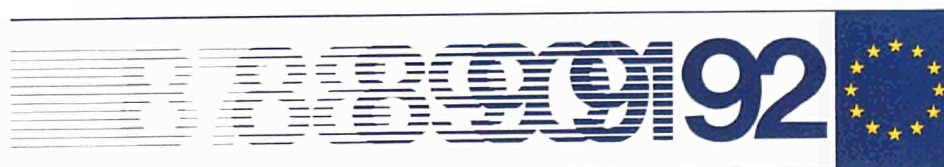


COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRAMEWORK 1991-93

Processing and marketing of fishery  
and aquaculture products  
(Objective 5a)

## BELGIUM



DOCUMENT



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
FRAMEWORK  
1991-93**

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and aquaculture products  
(Objective 5a)

**BELGIUM**

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Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities,  
1992

ISBN 92-826-3954-1

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*Printed in Germany*

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# Introduction by Mr Marín,

## Vice-President of the Commission and Member responsible for fisheries

The Community support frameworks (CSFs) provide the context within which the Member States can apply to the Commission for finance.

The CSFs in the processing and marketing sectors for fish and aquaculture products are linked to the achievement of Objective 5a of the reform of the structural Funds.

This part of the fishing industry is among those economic activities to benefit from the Single European Act. The underlying principles governing the reform of the Funds — concentration, partnership, mutually consistent policies, programming, additionality — also apply to these sectors.

The priority schemes for regions whose development is lagging behind come under the CSFs for Objective 1 of the reform. All assistance to the territory of the former German Democratic Republic is covered by a CSF especially for the new *Länder*, to be published separately.

The 11 Community support frameworks (Luxembourg has not submitted a sectoral plan) represent a nominal financial commitment on the Community's part of some ECU 180 million in the years 1991 to 1993, which is one and a half times the amount of aid granted during the years before the reform.

The processing and marketing of fish and aquaculture products represent important sectors in the economic activity of certain regions and developing them contributes to economic and social cohesion.

The regions concerned are having to meet the challenges of an increasingly fierce competitive climate and major problems involving restructuring and adjustments in the fields of technology and hygiene.

The Community's assistance is therefore geared toward:

- (i) improving the competitiveness of the sector within the context of completing the internal market and of increased competition from non-member countries;

- (ii) guaranteeing a constant flow of inputs of raw materials;
- (iii) contributing to the application of Community hygiene and public health standards and greater attention to the quality of the environment.

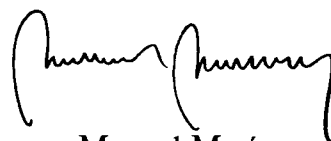
The Member States, in concert with the Commission, are required to implement the various forms of assistance on the basis of the Community support frameworks, particularly through operational programmes.

The first priority for Community assistance is building, modernizing and rationalizing auctions and markets and facilities for preparing and processing fish, developing new products, improving quality and hygiene in production and marketing processes and increasing the value added of products.

Since individual investment schemes are allowed for in the overall programming, economic agents in the fishing sector will also be able to profit from certain advantages in connection with the processing and marketing of fish and aquaculture products:

- (i) more precise knowledge of the objectives pursued by the Community;
- (ii) greater transparency of Community support;
- (iii) less risk of dissipation of funds;
- (iv) better monitoring and evaluation of the actual impact of the assistance.

It is to be hoped that all the structural measures relating to the fishing and aquaculture sector — including those concerning fishing fleets — will be incorporated in the Community's structural instruments in the near future.



Manuel Marín



# Objectives of the structural Funds

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Community action through the structural Funds, the EIB and other existing financial instruments shall support the achievement of the general objectives set out in Articles 130a and 130c of the Treaty by contributing to the attainment of the following five priority objectives:

1. promoting the development and structural adjustment of the regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1);
  2. converting the regions, frontier regions or parts of regions (including employment areas and urban communities) seriously affected by industrial decline (Objective 2);
  3. combating long-term unemployment (Objective 3);
  4. facilitating the occupational integration of young people (Objective 4);
  5. **with a view to reform of the common agricultural policy;**
    - (a) speeding up the adjustment of agricultural structures (Objective 5a),**
    - (b) promoting the development of rural areas (Objective 5b).**
-



# 1. General economic background

## 1.1. General

Favourably located amongst North Sea coastal States but endowed only with a short coast, Belgium has been experiencing a decrease in the catches and landings of wet fish and frozen fish in quantity terms since the early 1980s. They have now stabilized at approximately 32 000 tonnes per year. This reduction of fishing opportunities was not followed by a corresponding withdrawal of capacity and capacity actually expanded in the second half of the 1980s. Reduced domestic supplies of raw materials for the fish-processing industry and relatively high local demand made rising imports necessary. By 1988 imports had risen to 133 000 tonnes valued at BFR 19 160 million (ECU 456 million of mainly fresh, chilled and frozen fish as well as crustaceans and molluscs representing the most important fishery and aquaculture commodity groups. Imports of crustaceans and mulluscs were 43 000 tonnes.

Although the contribution of the fisheries sector to the Belgian gross domestic product (GDP) is small it constitutes virtually the only source of employment in coastal areas. Total direct and indirect employment amounts to 20 000 people, including related activities (boatyards, etc.).

Domestic demand in terms of apparent consumption (catches — non-food uses plus imports and exports) decreased in the second half of the 1980s, along with the consumption of fish per capita. Nevertheless, with per capita consumption in this country at around 17 kg in 1989, domestic demand still constitutes the most important outlet for local supply and imports.

The profitability of the fishing sector benefited from the relatively low fuel prices during the period 1986-89 and from the particular mix of the Belgian fleet's catches, most of which consist of high-priced demersal species. Prospects for cod and haddock, two overfished species in the North Sea, are not promising.

## 1.2. Fishing fleet

Belgian fishermen have access to fish stocks in the North Sea, English Channel and Irish Sea. These areas, together with the utilized fishing gear, determine to a great extent the mix of the Belgian fleet's catches, the main species being sole, plaice, cod, haddock and shrimps.

In line with Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86, the Belgian multiannual guidance programme for the evolution of the fishing fleet has established objectives in terms of engine power and vessel tonnage for the reduction of the capacity of the fishing fleet. The Belgian authorities are currently not meeting these objectives and the fleet presently consists of 205 vessels based at Zeebrugge, Ostend and Nieuwpoort.

The local fishing support industries offer a series of supplies and services to the fisheries sector. Any decrease of the overall capacity of the fleet will have a negative impact on this support industry due to the fact that it is, to a great extent, oriented towards this fleet.

## 1.3. Aquaculture

Onshore fish farming (mainly trout and carp, but also eel) is a small subsector (34 firms with 200 employees), mainly due to a limited supply of fresh water. In 1989 trout production was 800 tonnes while the cyprinoid (mainly carp) production amounted to 350 tonnes. This subsector should have excellent prospects in terms of prices and demand. However, modern processing and packing facilities plus improvements in hygiene and public health conditions are needed. Installations for effluent treatment and water recycling are also required to improve quality and to decrease the environmental impact of both the production and processing of aquaculture products.

## 1.4. Processing and marketing

### 1.4.1. Processing

The processing sector has had to respond to a situation where the landings of fish during the 1980s have been declining while domestic demand has been increasing.

The main processing firms (28 in 1987 employing 1 182 people) have switched their inputs of raw materials from fresh to frozen fish. The tonnage of imports which are mainly of EC origin are now nearly four times local landings. Processing firms with five or more employees use approximately 28 000 tonnes of raw material of which 80% consists of fresh, frozen and salted fish.

Processing activities include deep freezing and filleting (demersal species), packing of imported frozen pelagic species, and packing of imported brined, smoked and salted pelagic species. The opportunities to expand are limited.

The distribution of fish is broken down as follows: 40% to wholesalers, 40% to vertically integrated firms and 20% are direct sales to customers and caterers. Aquaculture products are sold either directly by the processing firms or by small specialized retail firms.

### **1.4.2. Marketing**

Fish is landed and marketed at the three main ports, Nieuwpoort, Ostend and Zeebrugge. Two of the three ports require further improvements. Zeebrugge lacks appropriate loading, storage and chilling facilities and is not easily accessible from the sea due to tidal conditions. Further, the auction centre facilities require improvements in

health and hygiene conditions. Marine supplies and services are not always available. Ostend presents similar deficiencies.

### **1.4.3. Conclusion**

The following are the strengths and weaknesses of the Belgian processing and marketing sector:

- (a) a very high dependency on imports;
- (b) a favourable location in Europe for the development of the fishing sector;
- (c) the existing processors must continue to modernize and make better use of existing resources;
- (d) an expanding domestic demand;
- (e) deficient facilities in selected ports and auction centres;
- (f) the quality of fish products as well as hygiene and health conditions could be improved.

## 2. Priority axes for common action

### 2.1. Priority axes

Based upon the strengths and weaknesses of the sector, the Commission and the Belgian authorities have agreed within the framework of partnership the following priority axes for granting Community aid.

The two axes are:

Axis 1: Processing;

Axis 2: Marketing.

#### 2.1.1. Axis 1: Processing

The following three measures will be undertaken within the processing axis.

##### *Measure 1: Modernization and rationalization of existing processing facilities*

Through this measure, investments will be made to modernize and rationalize the existing fish processing plants where the availability of raw material and market outlets for processed fish can be demonstrated. These investments will contribute to:

- (a) a better utilization of existing raw materials;
- (b) improved quality and health conditions;
- (c) enhanced competitiveness of fish products;
- (d) product innovation and better presentation and packaging.

##### *Measure 2: Aquaculture*

Investments will be made in the aquaculture sector where:

- (a) effluent treatment and recycling of fresh water facilities are needed to reduce the negative environmental impact;
- (b) there is further processing of aquaculture species.

##### *Measure 3: Pilot/demonstration projects: technical assistance and studies*

Where investments involve pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance and studies will be carried out to support the processing axis.

#### 2.1.2. Axis 2: Marketing

##### *Measure 1: Marketing and port facilities*

Investments in buildings and equipment are needed to improve auction halls and port facilities particularly where:

- (a) auction halls are inadequate;
- (b) chilling facilities are poor;
- (c) there is a need for better loading and unloading installations.

##### *Measure 2: Pilot/demonstration projects: technical assistance and studies*

Where investments involve pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance and studies will be carried out to support the marketing axis.

## 2.2. Coordination with other Community aid

### 2.2.1. Common fisheries policy (CFP)

The actions foreseen in this Community support framework must conform with the objectives of the common fisheries policy. The implementation of this policy consists of measures with a view to speeding up the adjustment of fisheries and aquaculture structures which include:

- (a) Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- (b) Regulation (EEC) No 3252/87 concerning the coordination and promotion of research in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The coherence between the actions foreseen in this Community support framework and the above measures will be ensured during their examination and implementation.

In the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 2321/88, setting out application procedures for Community aid under Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 concerning fishing port facilities, Belgium has presented a specific programme.

### **2.2.2. Other objectives of the reform of the structural Funds**

As part of the reform of the structural Funds, other Community support frameworks under Objectives 2, 3, 4 and

5b have been adopted. In order to ensure economic and social cohesion priority will be given, where appropriate, to actions within this Community support framework which complement and integrate with other Community support frameworks.

## **3. Forms of intervention**

### **3.1. Forms of assistance**

According to Regulation (EEC) No 4042/89 the Community intervention will take one or several of the following forms:

- (a) operational programmes;
- (b) global grants;
- (c) suitable projects;
- (d) pilot/demonstration projects: technical assistance and studies.

Operational programmes will be the main form of assistance.

### **3.2. Rates of finance**

The grant rate for financing all forms of assistance will be up to 30% of eligible costs.





## 4. Indicative financing plan

The amounts shown in the Community support framework financing tables are those agreed between the Commission and the Belgian Government. The figures relate to the period 1991-93. The tables contain commitments made under the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) — Guidance Section part of the structural Funds and are in line with Objective 5a of the reform of the structural Funds and also Regulation (EEC) No 4042/89 for the improvement of conditions under which fishery and aquaculture products are processed and marketed.

The indicative financing plan expressed in ecus at 1991 prices is presented in the form of two tables:

Table 1 shows funding by priority axis;

Table 2 shows funding by year.

### *European Investment Bank*

Concerning the possible participation of the EIB, the loan packages are not estimated at this stage, the actual amounts of loans being dependent on the projects to be submitted by the promoters with the consent of the national authorities concerned and the approval of the EIB organs.

Whenever appropriate, the EIB is prepared to approve, on the basis of its customary criteria, applications for loans for eligible investments not provided for in the Community support framework.

**Table 1**  
**Indicative financing plan**  
**by priority axis and existing commitments (1991-93)**

at 1991 prices

(1 000 ECU)

| Priority axes                             | Total cost <sup>1</sup> | Public expenditure       |                  |              |          |             |                                    |                    |                 |          | Private sector | Community loans EIB <sup>3</sup> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------------------------------|
|   |                         | Total public expenditure | Community grants |              |          |             | National contribution <sup>2</sup> |                    |                 |          |                |                                  |
|   |                         |                          | Total EEC        | EAGGF 5a     | ERDF     | ESF         | Total national                     | Central government | Local authority | Other    |                |                                  |
| 1   | 2 = 3 + 7               | 3 = 4 to 6               | 4                | 5            | 6        | 7 = 8 to 10 | 8                                  | 9                  | 10              | 11       | 12             |                                  |
| <i>New actions</i>                        |                         |                          |                  |              |          |             |                                    |                    |                 |          |                |                                  |
| 1. Processing                             | 10 733                  | 2 147                    | 1 610            | 1 610        | —        | —           | 537                                | 537                | —               | —        | 8 586          | —                                |
| 2. Marketing                              | 3 450                   | 863                      | 690              | 690          | —        | —           | 173                                | 173                | —               | —        | 2 588          | —                                |
| <b>New actions — Subtotal</b>             | <b>14 183</b>           | <b>3 010</b>             | <b>2 300</b>     | <b>2 300</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b>    | <b>710</b>                         | <b>710</b>         | <b>—</b>        | <b>—</b> | <b>11 174</b>  | <b>(token entry)</b>             |
| <i>Existing commitments (token entry)</i> | —                       | —                        | —                | —            | —        | —           | —                                  | —                  | —               | —        | —              | —                                |
| <b>Existing commitments — Subtotal</b>    | <b>—</b>                | <b>—</b>                 | <b>—</b>         | <b>—</b>     | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b>    | <b>—</b>                           | <b>—</b>           | <b>—</b>        | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b>       | <b>—</b>                         |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>14 183</b>           | <b>3 010</b>             | <b>2 300</b>     | <b>2 300</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b>    | <b>710</b>                         | <b>710</b>         | <b>—</b>        | <b>—</b> | <b>11 174</b>  | <b>(token entry)</b>             |

<sup>1</sup> Only including investments which are planned for co-financing under this Community support framework.

<sup>2</sup> Breakdown between State/region/other will be decided later.

<sup>3</sup> Participation of the EIB will be decided later.

**Table 2**  
**Indicative financing plan**  
**by year (1991-93)**  
at 1991 prices

(1 000 ECU)

|              | Total cost <sup>1</sup> | Public expenditure       |                  |              |          |             |                                    |                    |                 | Private sector | Community loans EIB <sup>3</sup> |                      |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
|              |                         | Total public expenditure | Community grants |              |          |             | National contribution <sup>2</sup> |                    |                 |                |                                  |                      |
|              |                         |                          | Total EEC        | EAGGF 5a     | ERDF     | ESF         | Total national                     | Central government | Local authority |                |                                  | Other                |
| 1            | 2 = 3 + 7               | 3 = 4 to 6               | 4                | 5            | 6        | 7 = 8 to 10 | 8                                  | 9                  | 10              | 11             | 12                               |                      |
| 1991         | 4 132                   | 877                      | 670              | 670          | —        | —           | 207                                | 207                | —               | —              | 3 255                            | —                    |
| 1992         | 5 057                   | 1 073                    | 820              | 820          | —        | —           | 253                                | 253                | —               | —              | 3 984                            | —                    |
| 1993         | 4 995                   | 1 060                    | 810              | 810          | —        | —           | 250                                | 250                | —               | —              | 3 935                            | —                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>14 184</b>           | <b>3 010</b>             | <b>2 300</b>     | <b>2 300</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b>    | <b>710</b>                         | <b>710</b>         | <b>—</b>        | <b>—</b>       | <b>11 174</b>                    | <b>(token entry)</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Only including investments which are planned for co-financing under this Community support framework.

<sup>2</sup> Breakdown between State/region/other will be decided later.

<sup>3</sup> Participation of the EIB will be decided later.



## 5. Community policy and additionality

### 5.1. Coordination and compliance with Community policies

#### 5.1.1. Rules on competition

For the Community to part-finance national aids, the Commission must have approved such aid in accordance with Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty.

When Member States send their applications for assistance (operational programmes, aid schemes or global grants or projects, as the case may be) in connection with Objective 5a to the Commission, they must identify in those applications the measures which constitute aid (aid schemes or *ad hoc* aid measures). At the same time, they must notify the Commission (Secretariat-General), in accordance with Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty of any aid measure not yet notified and not yet approved by the Commission whether it involves a new aid measure or modification of an existing aid measure.

As these aids are to be examined simultaneously with the grant applications, the Commission intends to adopt a position on them, and on any amendments made to them by the Member State, when it decides on the grant application.

As regards in particular aids in regions which are currently not eligible for national regional aid, a double examination will be undertaken by the Commission, in order to ensure coherence between regional policy and competition policy.

#### 5.1.2. Award of public contracts

Invitations to tender for the award of public contracts must be issued in accordance with the directives governing public supply and works contracts and, in future, when similar directives are required to be implemented for a certain number of those services and sectors currently excluded.

The criteria governing the monitoring of compliance with public procurement rules in the case of projects and programmes financed by the structural Funds and financial instruments are set out in Commission Notice C (88) 2510 of 4 May 1988 to the Member States (OJ C 22 of 28 January 1989).

#### 5.1.3. Protection of the environment

The measures taken in the course of implementing the Community support framework (CSF) must satisfy the conditions laid down by European Community legislation on the environment. Where gaps are found to exist in its implementation, priority must be given to the attainment of the objectives of the legislation in question during the period covered by the CSF insofar as such legislation relates to the development measure envisaged.

Where operations or measures are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, the Member States will, in accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 provide the Commission with appropriate information to enable it to assess the environmental impact of the operations or measures concerned.

The CSF includes assistance directly relating to the protection and development of the environmental resources of the regions concerned and so contributing to Community policy in that field.

#### 5.1.4. Completion of the single market

The activities of the Funds, the EIB and the other Community financial instruments should, in accordance with their priority objectives, help to strengthen the local economic base by ensuring that firms, in particular small and medium-sized firms, have at their disposal a range of financial and other services to enable them to prepare for the challenge of the single market (e.g. awareness of the opening up of the public procurement markets, product testing and certification infrastructures) and, in that context, for the abolition of intra-Community frontiers in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

#### 5.1.5. Agriculture

Measures under this CSF must be compatible with the objectives of the common agricultural policy. Consistency between the measures under this CSF and the objectives referred to above will be ensured at the examination and implementation stages.

### **5.1.6. Social policy: equality of opportunities for men and women**

The actions under this Community support framework must conform with, and where appropriate contribute to, the implementation of Community policy and legislation relating to equality of opportunity for women and men. In particular, consideration must be given to infrastructure requirements which facilitate participation in the labour force by people with children.

### **5.1.7. Research and technological development, information and telecommunications technologies, transfer of technologies**

Local development depends in large part on the transfer of technological innovation. From this point of view, stronger links between those active in development at local level and those engaged in research are very important, particularly with regard to the biotechnologies, the environment and the new information technologies. The telecommunications networks now being installed will assist the dissemination of information, and measures to support demand are likely.

### **5.1.8. Energy**

To the extent that the CSF concerns the energy sector, the related actions shall be in conformity with Community policy in that sector.

The new Community programme, Thermie, enables actions concerning demonstration projects to continue.

## **5.2. Additionality**

As laid down in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, the Commission and the Member State, in establishing and implementing the Community support frameworks, must ensure that the increase in the appropriations for the Funds provided for in Article 12(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 has a genuine additional economic impact (...) and results in at least an equivalent increase in the total volume of official or similar (Community and national) structural aid in the Member State concerned, taking into account the macroeconomic circumstances in which the funding takes place.

By agreeing to this Community support framework, the Member State also confirms its commitment to this legal obligation. The Commission will check implementation of this commitment on a regular basis by undertaking a periodic assessment of additionality throughout the period of implementation of the Community support frameworks.

## 6. Implementing provisions

### 6.1. Monitoring and control

#### 6.1.1. Implementation

In the framework of the partnership, the Member State, the implementing authorities designated by the Member State and the Commission (hereinafter 'the partners') shall strive to obtain the desired economic impact by a full and proper use of the financial resources provided for in this CSF.

To this end, the partners:

- (i) shall define precisely responsibilities at Community, national, regional and local level;
- (ii) shall, with the aid of a jointly agreed monitoring and evaluation system, ensure:
  - the transparency of management, and its strengthening where necessary;
  - good management information, facilitating decisions required to implement the CSF as approved, or to amend it where necessary;
  - an effective use of technical assistance, if required.

#### *The definition of responsibilities*

Within 60 days of the adoption of this CSF, the Member State shall designate or confirm the designation of the authority which is to have overall responsibility for the effective management of the implementation of this CSF.

The designated authority shall ensure that specific responsibilities for each implementing, coordinating and control activity are clearly defined, and that instructions are given to discharge these responsibilities correctly.

The responsibility of this designated authority concerns in particular:

- (i) the proposal of methods of *ex-ante* evaluation used by the Member State in drawing up proposals for Community intervention;
- (ii) the proposal of methods and procedures for defining, selecting and implementing individual actions or projects to be financed in the framework of operational programmes, aid schemes or global grants or loans after approval by the European Community;
- (iii) ensuring the compliance with Community policies;

- (iv) the follow-up of financial flows to implementing agencies to ensure the timely availability of Community and national resources;
- (v) the designation of mechanisms to prevent and detect any irregularities in the use of public finance;
- (vi) ensuring that the final beneficiaries of development programmes are fully aware of the opportunities available to them and of the contribution of the European Community to the development effort.

The Commission shall include a commentary on these matters in the reports foreseen under Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88.

Within 60 days of the adoption of this CSF, the Member State shall designate or confirm the designation of the authority responsible for meeting its obligations as regards financial control under Article 23 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

The Member State shall submit to the Commission, with the application for an operational programme, a description of the management and control system of the programme as well as the necessary information on the administrative and judicial arrangements set in place to ensure the respect of its obligations regarding financial control.

### 6.1.2. Monitoring: indicators and evaluation

#### 6.1.2.1. Monitoring Committee

A Monitoring Committee, organized in the context of the partnership, shall monitor the Community support framework as well as the forms of assistance outlined in this CSF.

The tasks of this Monitoring Committee shall be among others:

- (i) to coordinate all structural operations implemented within this CSF by the regional and central authorities of the Member State as well as the grant and loan instruments of the Communities, and to harmonize them with other Community policies, with a view to achieving the strategic objectives of the Community support framework;
- (ii) to evaluate regularly the progress made with the implementation of the CSF;
- (iii) to analyse proposals for possible modifications of the CSF.

The Monitoring Committee shall also adopt, on proposal of the authority responsible for the overall implementation of the CSF:

- (i) the methods of *ex-ante* evaluation of proposals for Community intervention;
- (ii) the methods and procedures for defining, selecting and implementing individual actions or projects to be financed under the different forms of assistance.

In the framework of partnership, the Monitoring Committee will be composed of the Commission, the EIB and Member State representatives, including, where appropriate, representatives of the competent authorities designated by the Member State at local, regional, national or any other level. The Monitoring Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure, including any appropriate organizational arrangements.

The Committee may meet at the initiative of either the Commission or the Member State concerned. The frequency of the meetings of the Monitoring Committee shall, as a general rule, be once or twice every year or more often if necessary.

The Member State, the Commission and the EIB shall designate their representatives in the Monitoring Committee, 60 days (at the latest) after notification to the Member State of the Commission decision approving the Community support framework.

The chairman of the Monitoring Committee will be designated by the Member State. The implementing authority shall provide the secretariat to the Monitoring Committee.

#### **6.1.2.2. Indicators**

In order to make possible the monitoring and evaluation of operations, the Monitoring Committee is responsible for the compilation of data on financial, physical implementation and performance indicators. The partners will jointly agree the detailed specification of the reporting system.

#### *Financial indicators*

The financial indicators for each year of execution shall relate to commitments, payments, indicatively planned expenditure for multiannual operations (budget) as well as changes in the financial execution of operations, all broken down by:

- (i) Fund or loan instrument for the Community sources and for each form of assistance within each priority;
- (ii) public contributions (from central, regional or local authorities), as well as private expenditure for each form of intervention within each priority.

#### *Physical implementation and performance indicators*

The following will be established:

- (i) physical implementation indicators (where relevant) to allow assessment of the degree of implementation of planned operations;
- (ii) performance indicators, which aim to measure the degree of achievement of the objectives of structural operations as well as their indirect socioeconomic effects.

The definition and the collection of all types of indicators shall be the object of a joint effort by the partnership. The same indicators will also be used, in so far as possible, for monitoring the progress made with the different forms of assistance planned under the CSF.

#### **6.1.2.3. Evaluation**

##### *Ex-ante assessment*

The presentation of the various forms of intervention shall be accompanied by an *ex-ante* assessment, which shall be undertaken by the Member States, with a view to:

- (i) assessing the compatibility of interventions with the Community support framework;
- (ii) assessing the existence of adequate implementation and management structures;
- (iii) assessing the articulation of structural operations with other Community policies, the combination of grants and loans, as well as their economic soundness and viability of the operations.

For its part the Commission reserves the right to make its own assessment of these issues.

##### *Ex-post evaluation*

*Ex-post* evaluation shall be undertaken in respect of the CSF as well as the individual operations. A method for carrying out this task will be established by the partnership and will take account of the results of the constant monitoring of operations by the Monitoring Committee.

#### **6.1.3. Progress reports for the implementation of operations**

The reports which the authority designated by the Member State shall send to the Commission shall be established in a standardized form to be jointly defined (for multiannual operations lasting less than two years).

The final reports shall include a first provisional evaluation of the operation concerned, according to the guidelines which will have been agreed upon by the Commission and the Member State concerned.



#### **6.1.4. Procedures for the modification of a Community support framework**

According to the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88, the Community support frameworks may, if necessary, be revised and adjusted, on the initiative of the Member State or of the Commission in agreement with the Member State, in the light of relevant information and of the results obtained during implementation of the operations concerned.

The principles concerning the modifications of Community support frameworks, established through agreement between the Member State and the Commission with a view to allowing their flexible implementation, are:

- (a) The following modifications can be decided by the Monitoring Committee(s):
  - (i) variations between priorities compared to the initial estimates included in the indicative financing plan of not more than 15% of each separate priority for the whole of the period, or 20% for one financial year. The variations must remain compatible with the Commission's budgetary rules and procedures and must not affect the total amount of assistance of the Fund;
  - (ii) other minor modifications concerning the implementation of actions, with the exception of the provisions concerning aid schemes.

The Commission and the Member State shall be informed of the decisions to adopt these modifications. They shall be valid unless within a period of 20 working days following the date of receipt by the Commission or by the Member State of the information, the Commission or the Member State has requested the suspension of that modification.

If necessary, the Commission and the Member State shall adapt their decisions approving the operations concerned.

- (b) The following modifications can be adopted by the Commission, in agreement with the Member State:
  - (i) modifications going beyond the thresholds of 15% and 20% defined in (a) but not beyond 25%;
  - (ii) transfers of Community resources between forms of assistance within a CSF up to 25% of the total Community allocation anticipated.
- (c) Other modifications require a revision of the Community support framework following the same procedures applied for its adoption.

Provisions relating to the modification of individual operations during implementation are included in decisions approving such operations.

### **6.2. Information and publicity**

The Member State, the entities responsible for the implementation of the Community support framework and the Commission will decide on the information and publicity measures to be undertaken for actions benefiting from Community financial support on the basis of the principles set out in Article 32 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

These information and publicity measures shall be determined in the context of the individual decisions for the forms of intervention.

### **6.3. Technical assistance**

If required, the partnership shall agree as soon as possible a programme for technical assistance for supporting management, coordination and control, as well as monitoring and evaluation systems of this CSF.







European Communities — Commission

**Community support framework — 1991-93**

Processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products (Objective 5a)

**Belgium**

*Document*

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1992 — 23 pp. — 21.0 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 92-826-3954-1

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 6



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Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 6

ISBN 92-826-3954-1



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