

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRAMEWORK 1991-93

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

FRANCE



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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FRAMEWORK
1991-93**

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

ISBN 92-826-3960-6

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Printed in Germany

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Preliminary note

Under Article 8 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 of 24 June 1988 (OJ L 185, 15.7.1988, p. 9), some regions of France are covered by Objective 1 of the reform of structural Funds.

This document is:

an addendum to the Community support framework approved by the Commission on 31 October 1989 for regions covered by Objective 1,
an autonomous Community support framework for the other regions.

The indicative financing plan at Chapter 4 of this document includes two distinct series of tables:

a first series for regions covered by Objective 1,
a second series for the other regions.

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.

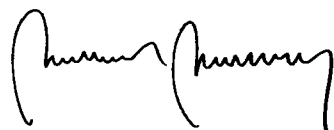
The Member States, in concert with the Commission, are required to implement the various forms of assistance on the basis of the Community support frameworks, particularly through operational programmes.

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

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

Geographically speaking, France occupies a central position in the European Community. It has a total of 5 500 km of coastline on the North Sea, the English Channel, the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean. Fisheries and aquaculture are essential to the economy of many coastal areas.

Total production in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors was around FF 8.5 billion (ECU 1.2 billion) in 1988, of which the former accounted for FF 6.5 billion (ECU 0.9 billion). This figure for the fisheries sector was 2.5% higher than the previous year despite a fall in the volume of catches.

Foreign trade still showed a deficit in 1988 (FF – 8.87 billion (ECU – 1.3 billion) but this grew less than in the two previous years.

A wide variety of marine products are consumed in France and a large percentage of total consumption is made up of fresh products (75% of the volume and 55% of the value).

1.2. The fishing fleet

On 31 December 1989, the active French fishing fleet numbered 10 361 boats with a total power of 1 196 360 kW and a total tonnage of 213 000 tonnes. More than three-quarters of the boats were less than 12 metres long and 87% of the fleet was made up of boats of less than 16 metres.

In line with Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 the French 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 capacity of the fishing fleet. The measures adopted should permit the achievement of the aims of the programme.

After a sharp fall in 1985, the number of fishermen is stabilizing at a little over 18 000.

1.3. Aquaculture

In 1989, French marine and inland aquaculture employed a total of 16 000 full-time workers and had a turnover of FF 2.03 billion (ECU 290 million).

This compares with some 18 000 sea fishermen and a turnover of FF 6.5 billion (ECU 0.9 billion) for French fisheries at the first marketing stage.

The sector has the following features:

- (i) an important shellfish farming sector, essential to the development of the biological resources of the coast. It employs 12 000 permanent workers and has a turnover of FF 1.5 billion (ECU 220 million);
- (ii) booming production of species in great demand on the market: bass, sea trout, clams, tropical prawns and shrimps. Other species are to be produced in quantity in the near future: turbot, sea-bream, salmon;
- (iii) solid professional structures and important research work carried out for several years by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer) (French institute for research into the development of the sea);
- (iv) overall fairly suitable sites for the development of inland aquaculture. This sector produces 33 000 tonnes, has a turnover of FF 500 million (ECU 72 million) and employs 4 000 people.

1.4. Processing

1.4.1. Canned and semi-preserved products

Canned products are primarily tuna, mackerel and sardines. Semi-preserved products concern anchovies.

The canning industry uses around 105 000 tonnes of raw material, more than half of which is imported. The sector has a number of strong points which will aid its development:

- (i) small firms specialized in top-of-the-range products supported by a distribution network;
- (ii) large, multiproduct firms operating at least at national level whose expansion is linked to the growing tuna-based products market. These firms buy most of their raw material on the world market. The largest groups have a tropical tuna fleet and initial processing plant in third countries close to the fishing grounds with lower labour costs.

Medium-sized companies which have been unable to implement any of the above strategies are, however, in decline. This is particularly noticeable in the case of sardine canning due to labour costs and a shrinking market.

1.4.2. Frozen products

Frozen marine products intended for final consumption account for 28% of the value of marine product consumption in France. The market is expanding, particularly for processed products.

As the market grows, the contribution of French raw materials is steadily declining as a result of decreasing fishing opportunities following reductions in quotas, both in Community waters and those of third countries.

The sector is strengthened by the presence of several large expanding national and international groups with a large range of frozen marine and other products. A number of small and medium-sized firms have managed to develop their production in the wake of these large firms with which they compete on most markets. A fairly large number of small firms, however, generally operating at regional level, which have mainly grown slower than the market, are fairly unprofitable.

The trade balance of frozen products has been deteriorating steadily for several years. The situation has been less serious for the most highly processed products.

1.4.3. Other products

The long-stagnant smoked products market is experiencing an upsurge, due principally to smoked salmon.

1.5. Marketing

1.5.1. Fishery products

Fishery products are mainly marketed through the fish auctions or markets which handle around three-quarters of national production.

The distribution of products into the processing and marketing chains is through the port merchant sector.

Markets

There is a total of 45 markets of fairly unequal size. Three markets alone handle more than half the total volume and more than a third of the value of products.

The number of markets, whose distribution along the coast is based on the location of ports, appears adequate.

Some of them are even experiencing financial difficulties because of a shortage of products.

Infrastructures and the quality of plant vary considerably. Some markets, even small ones, have recent buildings and modern handling, storage and management facilities. Others, on the other hand, including some of the biggest, have worn-out and unsuitable plant requiring major renovation work.

The most frequent problems are:

- old buildings with poor thermal insulation;
- over-slow handling;
- inadequate refrigeration plants;
- inadequate equipment from the point of view of health regulations.

Port merchants

There are 680 port merchants employing 9 000 workers. Port merchants, who buy fish at auction and resell to wholesalers, retailers and organizations, handle more than three-quarters French fishery products. Port merchants do not only resell the products unprocessed but carry out operations such as filleting and storage before dispatch.

The structure of the sector is characteristic of one dealing with the market for fresh products intended for human consumption. Most of the enterprises are small, and often old, family firms. Many do not satisfactorily fulfil health requirements. In Brittany, for example, which accounts for 40% of the products handled at national level, only 10% of premises comply fully with health standards.

The sector must, therefore, be restructured and hygiene conditions improved, in particular through better temperature control. Handling and treatment equipment must also be improved. Such modernization is vital in view of the growing importance of large distributors with strict requirements as regards standardization, sizing and consistency of product quality.

1.5.2. Aquaculture products

The needs of this sector mainly centre on shellfish distribution and packing establishments. There are certain similarities with the port merchant sector, shellfish establishments lacking storage tanks complying with standards as well as sizing and packaging equipment.

The equipment of purifying plants is often inadequate.

2. Priority axes for common action

2.1. Priority axes

Based upon the strengths and weaknesses of the sector, the Commission and the French 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

This priority includes all those measures intended to improve the competitiveness of enterprises and adjust production methods to new market, hygiene and public health requirements.

Measure 1: rationalization and modernization of processing plant in order to increase productivity and improve hygiene and sanitary conditions.

Measure 2: promotion of technological innovation; development of the product range and of new forms of packaging.

Measure 3: promotion of restructuring of the sector by encouraging investments involving closer links or cooperation between enterprises, particularly those involving finance for research, development and marketing.

Measure 4: enhancing the value of marine and inland aquaculture products and improving their quality; widening the range of products offered to better exploit new species.

Measure 5: pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance, 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

This priority includes measures intended to improve marketing structures and chains, contribute to market stability and improve product quality, particularly as regards hygiene and sanitary conditions.

Measure 1: Rationalization, modernization and equipping of fish markets and workshops, in particular as regards hygiene, refrigeration and the computerization of management.

Measure 2: Improvement of handling and fish treatment techniques at unloading.

Measure 3: Modernization of shellfish product distribution and packing establishments; creation or development of storage and purifying tanks.

Measure 4: Pilot/demonstration projects, technical assistance, 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 (CFP). The implementation of this policy consists of measures with a view to speeding up the adjustment of fisheries and aquaculture structures which include:

- Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- 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, France presented on 30 April 1987, a specific programme which was adopted by a Commission Decision on 21 December 1988 (Decision 89/72/EEC, OJ L 30, 1.2.1989).

2.2.2. Other objectives of the reform of structural Funds

As part of the reform of the structural Funds other Community support frameworks under Objectives 1, 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.

2.3. Integrated Mediterranean programme (IMP)

Within the framework of the IMPs, four regional programmes covering Corsica, Provence — Alpes — Côte d'Azur,

Roussillon and Aquitaine involve Community financial support of ECU 4.55 million over the whole period of application (1986-92) under Regulations (EEC) Nos 355/77 and 4042/89.

After deduction of the grants already allocated within the framework of Regulation (EEC) No 355/88, various measures (corresponding to some ECU 11.32 million in investments) are still to be financed up to ECU 3.66 million for the period of implementation of this Community support framework. Such measures are regarded as actions already decided (Part 'existing commitments' of Table 1 at Chapter 4) under the budget allocated to this Community support framework and Regulation (EEC) No 4042/89.

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:

- (i) operational programmes,
- (ii) global grants,
- (iii) suitable projects,
- (iv) 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, except for regions covered by Objective 1 of the reform of structural Funds, where the grant rate will be up to 50% 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 French 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 1a
Indicative financing plan
by priority axis and existing commitments (1991-93)

At 1991 prices

Regions covered by Objective 1

(1000 ECU)

Priority axes	Total cost ¹	Public expenditures									Private sector	Community loans EIB ³
		Total public expenditure	Community grants				National contribution ²					
			Total EEC	EAGGF 5a	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities	Other		
			1	2=3 + 7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10	8		
<i>New actions</i>												
1. processing	5 000	1 200	900	900	—	—	300	300	—	—	3 800	
2. marketing	5 540	1 108	554	554	—	—	554	554	—	—	4 432	
New actions Subtotal	10 540	2 308	1 454	1 454	—	—	854	854	—	—	8 232	token entry
<i>Existing commitments</i>												
IMPs	360	151	90	90	—	—	61	61	—	—	209	
Existing commitments Subtotal	360	151	90	90	—	—	61	61	—	—	209	token entry
Total	10 900	2 459	1 544	1 544	—	—	915	915	—	—	8 441	token entry

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

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

³ Participation of the EIB will be decided later.

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

At 1991 prices

Other regions

(1000 ECU)

Priority axes	Total cost ¹	Public expenditures									Private sector	Community loans EIB ³
		Total public expenditure	Community grants				National contribution ²					
			Total EEC	EAGGF 5a	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities	Other		
			1	2=3 + 7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10	8		
<i>New actions</i>												
1. processing	45 111	10 827	8 120	8 120	—	—	2 707	2 707	—	—	34 284	
2. marketing	88 060	17 612	8 806	8 806	—	—	8 806	8 806	—	—	70 448	
New actions Subtotal	133 171	28 439	16 926	16 926	—	—	11 513	11 513	—	—	104 732	token entry
<i>Existing commitments</i>												
IMPs	10 960	5 393	3 530	3 530	—	—	1 863	1 863	—	—	5 567	
Existing commitments Subtotal	10 960	5 393	3 530	3 530	—	—	1 863	1 863	—	—	5 567	token entry
Total	144 131	33 832	20 456	20 456	—	—	13 376	13 376	—	—	110 299	token entry

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

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

³ Participation of the EIB will be decided later.

Table 2a
Indicative financing plan
by year

At 1991 prices

Regions covered by Objective 1

(1000 ECU)

	Total cost ¹	Public expenditures								Private sector	Community loans EIB ³	
		Total public expenditure	Community grants				National contribution ²					
			Total EEC	EAGGF 5a	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities			Other
			1	2=3 + 7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10			8
1991	3 163	714	448	448	—	—	266	266	—	—	2 449	
1992	3 812	860	540	540	—	—	320	320	—	—	2 952	
1993	3 925	886	556	556	—	—	330	330	—	—	3 040	
Total	10 900	2 460	1 544	1 544	—	—	916	916	—	—	8 441	token entry

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

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

³ Participation of the EIB will be decided later.

Table 2b
Indicative financing plan
by year

At 1991 prices

Other regions

(1000 ECU)

	Total cost ¹	Public expenditures								Private sector	Community loans EIB ³	
		Total public expenditure	Community grants				National contribution ²					
			Total EEC	EAGGF 5a	ERDF	ESF	Total national	Central government	Local authorities			Other
1	2=3 + 7	3=4 to 6	4	5	6	7=8 to 10	8	9	10	11	12	
1991	41 796	9 811	5 932	5 932	—	—	3 879	3 879	—	—	31 985	
1992	50 441	11 840	7 159	7 159	—	—	4 681	4 681	—	—	38 601	
1993	51 894	12 181	7 365	7 365	—	—	4 816	4 816	—	—	39 713	
Total	144 131	33 832	20 456	20 456	—	—	13 376	13 376	—	—	110 299	token entry

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

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

³ 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 coherency 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 in so far 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 Com-

munity 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 obligation 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:

- (a) the methods of *ex-ante* evaluation of proposals for Community intervention;
- (b) 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.

(a) *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:

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

(b) *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 is possible, for monitoring the progress made with the different forms of assistance planned under the CSF.

6.1.2.3. Evaluation

(a) *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 coordination of structural operations with other Community policies, the combination of grants and loans, as well as their economic soundness and the viability of the operations.

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

(b) *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 modification of Community support frameworks, established through agreement between the Member State and the Commission with a view to allowing their flexible implementation are as follows:

- (a) The following modifications can be decided by the Monitoring Committee(s):
 - variations between priorities compared to the initial estimates included in the indicative financing plan of not more than 15% for 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;
 - 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:
 - modifications going beyond the thresholds of 15 and 20% defined in (a) but not beyond 25%;
 - 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)

France

Document

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1992 — 27 pp. — 21.0 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 92-826-3960-6

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 6

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Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 6

ISBN 92-826-3960-6



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