COUNCIL DECISION

of 27 June 1974

on action by the European Social Fund for handicapped persons

(74/328/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to the Council Decision of 1 February 1971 [1] on the reform of the European Social Fund, and in particular Article 4 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament [2];

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Whereas the means of action and operation of the Fund are defined by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2396/71 [3] of 8 November 1971, implementing the Council Decision of 1 February 1971, on the reform of the European Social Fund;

Whereas, in its resolution of 21 January 1974 [4] concerning a social action programme, the Council considered that to achieve the proposed actions successfully in the social field, the necessary resources should be provided, in particular by strengthening the role of the European Social Fund;

Whereas the above resolution provides for the implementation of a programme for the vocational and social integration of handicapped persons;

Whereas, on 27 June 1974, the Council adopted a resolution [5] establishing the initial Community action programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons;

Whereas the employment situation regarding handicapped persons calls for specific joint action to improve the balance between supply of, and demand for, manpower within the Community;

Whereas assistance from the Fund should facilitate short-term demonstration projects aimed at improving the quality of vocational rehabilitation facilities and the organization of training and advanced training courses for the personnel required to ensure the vocational and social integration of handicapped persons;

Whereas assistance from the Fund should not discriminate as to the origin or the nature of the handicap;

Whereas self-employed activities, in certain cases, are more suited to the capabilities of handicapped persons;

Whereas the reform of the European Social Fund decided on by the Council enables a contribution to be made to the costs resulting from plans under development or to be developed in the Member States with the aim of stimulating the employment and geographical and professional mobility of handicapped persons,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. Specific operations to facilitate the employment and geographical and professional mobility of handicapped persons shall be eligible to receive assistance from the Fund under Article 4 of the Council Decision of 1 February 1971, provided that they form part of an operation involving:

— the integration, within an overall continuous process, of all stages of medical rehabilitation, vocational training or rehabilitation and procedures prior to employment;

— the development of facilities and application of methods for medical rehabilitation and vocational training or rehabilitation suited to the requirements of handicapped persons by placing them in the best conditions to bring about vocational and social integration or reintegration which is adequate in relation to the position of able-bodied workers.

2. The following measures may be given consideration in this context:

— short-term demonstration projects aimed at improving the quality of vocational rehabilitation facilities to the extent that they conform with Chapter II, point 2 of the initial Community action programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons;

— the organization of training and advanced training courses for:

[1] OJ No L 28, 4. 2. 1971, p. 15.
[2] OJ No C 23, 8. 3. 1974, p. 15.
[3] OJ No L 249, 10. 11. 1971, p. 54.
[4] OJ No C 13, 12. 2. 1974, p. 1.
[5] OJ No C 80, 9. 7. 1974, p. 30.

— persons employed in the medical rehabilitation, vocational guidance, training, vocational training or rehabilitation and re-employment of handicapped persons,

— those responsible for the training of instructors.

Article 2

1. Irrespective of the origin or nature of their handicap, the Fund may intervene in favour of persons considered capable, after medical rehabilitation and vocational training or rehabilitation, of working in paid employment.

2. Operations concerning handicapped persons who are to pursue self-employed activities shall also be eligible to receive assistance from the Fund under the conditions laid down in Article 1 and in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 3

Those aids which feature on the list established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2397/71 [1] of 8 November 1971 on aid which may qualify for assistance from the European Social Fund, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1761/74 [2], may receive assistance from the European Social Fund.

Article 4

This Decision shall enter into force on the fifth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

It shall apply to operations of which the draft has received the approval of the Commission, before the expiry of a period of three years after the entry into force of this Decision.

Done at Luxembourg, 27 June 1974.

For the Council

The President

K. GSCHEIDLE

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[1] OJ No L 249, 10. 11. 1971, p. 58.

[2] See page 1 of this Official Journal.