COUNCIL DECISION
of 18 March 1975
setting up a Regional Policy Committee

(75/185/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 145 thereof ;

Having regard to the draft Decision submitted by the Commission ;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament (1) ;

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2) ;

Whereas, at their conference in October 1972, the Heads of State or of Government undertook to coordinate the regional policies of the Member States ;

Whereas to this end coordinated objectives, means of concerted action and overall assessments of regional development in the Community should be progressively evolved ;

Whereas it is necessary to define the principal fields in which this coordination should be exercised ;

Whereas it is necessary to establish a procedure for consultation on problems of regional policy and of the measures to be taken at Community level,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

With a view to contributing to the coordination of the regional policies of the Member States, a Regional Policy Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee'), attached to the Council and the Commission, is hereby set up.

Article 2

1. The Committee's task shall be to examine, at the request of the Council or of the Commission, or on its own initiative, problems relating to regional development, the progress made or to be made towards solving them and regional policy measures needed to further the achievement of the Community's regional objectives. Without prejudice to the provisions of the Treaties, it shall study in particular :

(a) the aims, means, methods and experience of Member States in the field of regional policy, taking account of the Community's other policies ;

(b) on a continuing and comprehensive basis, economic and social trends in the various regions of the Community ;

(c) technical methods for drafting regional development programmes so as to arrive at a common approach to the concept of a regional policy programme ;

(d) the development programmes presented by Member States, particularly in respect of the regions referred to in Article 3 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 724/75 setting up a European Regional Development Fund ;

(e) the financial resources which Member States and the Community propose to provide for regional development over a period of years ;

(f) the impact of Community financial instruments in regional terms ;

(g) investment trends in the regions of the Community and the coordinated implementation of Community measures, together with measures by Member States, with a view to facilitating the implementation of programmes ;

(h) systems of aid which are regional in purpose or effect ;

(i) disincentive measures in regions with a heavy concentration of economic activity ;

(j) the promotion of better information services for both public and private investors in regional development.

2. The Committee shall report on its activities to the Council and the Commission. The latter shall inform the European Parliament thereof in its annual report.

(1) OJ No C 108, 10. 12. 1973, p. 51.
(2) OJ No C 8, 31. 1. 1974, p. 11.

Article 3

1. The Member States and the Commission shall each appoint two members to the Committee. They may appoint alternates. The members of the Committee, and the alternates, appointed by the Member States shall be selected from among senior officials responsible for regional policy.

2. Except where the Committee shall decide otherwise, the members may be assisted by experts.

3. The European Investment Bank shall appoint an observer to the Committee.

Article 4

1. The Committee shall by majority vote appoint its chairman and vice-chairman from among its members for a period of two years. Their term of office may be renewed.

2. The Committee may entrust the study of particular questions to working parties composed of certain of its members or of alternates or of experts.

3. The Committee's secretariat shall be provided by the Commission.

4. The Committee shall drawn up its own rules of procedure.

Article 5

The Committee may, in accordance with its rules of procedure, receive from interested parties from the regions and from trade union and business organizations.

Done at Brussels, 18 March 1975.

For the Council

The President

R. RYAN