II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 20 January 1981

on Community aid granted by way of exception for the reconstruction of the regions affected by the Italian earthquake in November 1980

(81/19/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament [1],

Whereas the regions of Campania and Basilicata were seriously stricken by an earthquake in November 1980 and it is important to mitigate the effects of this disaster on the economic and social situation there;

Whereas the European Council at its meeting on 1 and 2 December 1980 invited the Community institutions to contribute to the reconstruction programme of the stricken areas, particularly by means of loans with interest rate rebates;

Whereas this is a completely exceptional situation requiring rapid and effective remedies;

Whereas Council Decision 78/870/EEC of 16 October 1978 empowering the Commission to contract loans for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community [2], provides a means of realizing this objective;

Whereas it is appropriate that loans granted for this purpose under the provisions of the new Community instrument or on the European Investment Bank's own resources should benefit from interest rebates chargeable to the Communities' general budget;

Whereas the Treaty makes no provision for the specific powers of action required for this purpose,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The following paragraphs are hereby added to Article 1 of Decision 78/870/EEC:

'The Commission shall be empowered to contract, by way of sole exception, on behalf of the European Economic Community, loans for the purpose of financing investments for the reconstruction of the means of production and the economic and social infrastructure in the regions affected by the Italian earthquake in November 1980.

The amount of the principal of such loans may not exceed the equivalent of 1 000 million ECU, subject to deduction in respect of any operations of the same nature carried out by the European Investment Bank out of its own resources.'

[1] OJ No C 346, 31. 12. 1980, p. 59.
[2] OJ No L 298, 25. 10. 1978, p. 9.

Article 2

Interest rebates on a principal not exceeding the equivalent of 1 000 million ECU, chargeable to the general budget of the European Communities, may be granted on loans made either by the European Investment Bank out of its own resources or under the new Community instrument, as provided for in Article 1 of Decision 78/870/EEC to support investments carried out in the regions affected by the Italian earthquake in November 1980.

Article 3

The Commission shall, on the basis of projects submitted by the Italian authorities, grant interest rebates each year. The rebate rate is hereby fixed at 3 % per annum for a maximum period of 12 years.

Article 4

When the loans are expressed, payable or repayable in the currency of a Member State, they may be concluded only with the agreement of the competent authorities of that State.

Article 5

The financial control and audit of the Commission's accounts shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties and the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

Article 6

Implementing rules for this Decision shall be adopted by the Commission.

Article 7

The Commission shall annually inform the Council and the European Parliament of transactions carried out under this Decision.

Article 8

This Decision shall apply with effect from 1 January 1981.

Done at Brussels, 20 January 1981.

For the Council

The President

Ch. A. van der KLAAUW