COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 April 1985

on the multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing fleet submitted by Denmark pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83

(Only the Danish text is authentic)

(85/279/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83 of 4 October 1983 on a common measure for restructuring, modernizing and developing the fishing industry and for developing aquaculture [1], and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Whereas the Danish Government forwarded on 30 November 1984 a multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing industry, hereinafter called 'the programme'; whereas it forwarded on 20 February 1985 the latest additional information concerning this programme;

Whereas the period of implementation of the programme covers at least the proposed duration of the common measure, in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83;

Whereas the programme contains the information referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83;

Whereas the vessels that make up the Danish fishing fleet are characterized by a considerable degree of obsolescence, in particular with regard to the date of hull construction; whereas, in order to ensure that the fishing fleet is restructured in a rational manner, the programme provides for a renewal, without any increase in the overall tonnage of the fleet, that is compatible with the medium-term prospects for the exploitation of fish stocks; whereas such renewal is concerned with improving working conditions, the conditions for processing and conserving catches and the versatility of fishing methods;

Whereas special attention should be paid to fishing for human consumption;

Whereas the renewal of obsolete vessels must be accompanied by a withdrawal of vessels whose gross register tonnage is equivalent overall to that of the newly built vessels;

Whereas it is planned that the implementation of the restructuring measures should be accompanied by the introduction of a permanent system for monitoring additions to the fleet and a generalized system to ensure that better use is made of available resources with a view to obtaining the best possible distribution of fishing effort;

Whereas the programme may, having regard to the production potential, the measures for the conservation and management of fish stocks, the demand for the products concerned and the guidelines of the common fisheries policy, constitute a suitable framework for projects which may qualify for financial support from the Community;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee for the Fishing Industry,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing fleet forwarded by the Danish Government on 30 November 1984, as last supplemented on 20 February 1985, the main features of which are set out in Annex I hereto, is hereby approved subject to the provisions set out in Annex II hereto.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Denmark.

Done at Brussels, 24 April 1985.

For the Commission
Frans ANDRIESSEN
Vice-President

[1] OJ No L 290, 22. 10. 1983, p. 1.

ANNEX I

MAIN FEATURES OF THE GUIDANCE PROGRAMME IN RESPECT OF THE FISHING FLEET DRAWN UP BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2908/83

1. **Purpose of the programme**

Restructuring of the fishing fleet by the replacement of obsolete vessels and the modernization of vessels already in use.

2. **Delimitation of the area concerned by the programme**

The territory of Denmark with the exclusion of Greenland and the Faroes.

3. **Duration of the programme**

The programme will remain in force until 31 December 1987.

4. Objective of the programme

The objective of the programme is to:

— stabilize the capacity of the fleet in the medium term, account being taken of a slight increase in the stocks available for human consumption and of the stability of stocks available for industrial processing,

— improve working and safety conditions on board,

— improve on-board conservation and processing of catches with a view to improving catch quality and thereby achieving greater economic efficiency,

— encourage a more rational use of fuel by vessels.

5. **The following measures are proposed to attain these objectives**

5.1. *Construction*

— stabilization of the overall capacity of the fleet at 120 000 grt as of 31 December 1987, i.e. at the same level as of 31 December 1984,

— monitoring of additions to the fleet, which must be offset by an overall withdrawal of vessels of an equivalent capacity,

— promotion of definitive withdrawal from fishing activity, without replacement, by the application of a system of laying-up premiums in accordance with Directive 83/515/EEC (1).

5.2. *Modernization*

Modernization aid will be restricted to vessels less than 30 years old until 31 December 1985. From 1 January 1986, this limit will be reduced to 25 years. For industrial fishing, this aid will be restricted to measures aimed at improving the quality of the catches; a more rational use of fuel and working and safety conditions on board.

6. **Forecast investments required to attain the objective set out in point 4 above**

6.1. *For vessel construction (in grt)*

	1985	1986	1987
Additions to the fleet	6 500	5 500	6 000
Withdrawals from the fleet	6 500	5 500	6 000
— without State aids	4 500	5 500	6 000
— with State aids	2 000	—	—

6.2. *For vessel modernization*

It is planned that the number of vessels to be modernized in the period from 1985 to 1987 will be of the same order as the number modernized in the previous three years.

(1) Article 13 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83 lays down that projects concerning the construction of fishing vessels intended for the replacement of vessels having benefited from aids for definitive reduction of capacity within the framework of Directive 83/515/EEC are ineligible.

7. **Investment forecasts (million ECU)**

Total planned investments:

— for the construction of new vessels 1985 to 1987: 200 million ECU,

— for modernization: 20 million ECU.

Planned annual national aid for construction and modernization:

1985: 3,9 million ECU
1986: 4,4 million ECU
1987: 4,4 million ECU
} Of which 0,7 million ECU are for aquaculture

These financial figures, as well as the breakdown between the various measures are indicative.

ANNEX II

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Commission notes that the programme submitted by the Danish Government constitutes an initial attempt, following the adoption of the common fisheries policy, to restructure investments in the medium term with the aim of ensuring satisfactory economic conditions for the fishing industry and of improving the income of those employed in the industry.

   The capacity objective fixed must, however, be accompanied by a permanent system of management of the catch capacity in relation to the management of stocks. This system, which should be installed as soon as possible, should include a continuous monitoring of developments in respect of both the construction of new vessels and the modernization of the existing fleet and should pay particular attention to the balance between entries into the fleet and withdrawals from activity. The norms of application must be notified to the Commission within the framework of the annual re-examination of this programme.

   The Commission considers that a continuous monitoring of the effect of boat modernizations on capacity should be set up within the framework of this system.

   Moreover, the development of the engine capacity of the fleet should be monitored in order to avoid, as necessary, all risks of an uncontrolled increase in fishing effort.

   The Commission notes the intention of the Danish authorities to cease providing State aid to finance, on the one hand, the construction of new vessels for industrial fishing and, on the other, the modernization of vessels that are more than 30 years old until 31 December 1985. From 1 January 1986 this age limit will be reduced to 25 years.

2. The Commission considers that the forecasts of investment contained in the present programme do not prejudice possible grants of aid from the Community.

3. The Commission considers that the programme forecasts and their actual implementation should form the subject of a more detailed analysis within the framework of the annual review referred to in Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83, in the light of developments in the structural and economic situation of fishing undertakings in Denmark.
