COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 April 1985

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

(Only the French text is authentic)

(85/281/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 French Government forwarded on 28 November 1984 a multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing industry, hereinafter called 'the programme'; whereas it forwarded on 25 February 1985 the latest additional information concerning this programme;

Whereas the period for the 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 French fishing fleets and their methods are very varied due to the range of species caught;

Whereas there is a need to continue restructuring the French fishing fleet in order to maintain its profitability;

Whereas, in the light of stocks, it is desirable not to increase the fishing capacity of the fleet;

Whereas special attention should be paid to the renewal of the near-water company-owned fleet in the light of the very major reduction it has experienced and its importance in ensuring that ports are well supplied with fish;

Whereas maintenance of fishing capacity will be ensured by continuous monitoring of additions to and withdrawals from the fleet;

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 French Government on 28 November 1984, as last supplemented on 25 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 French Republic.

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 FRANCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGULATION (EEC) No 2908/83

1. **Purpose of the programme**

Renewal and modernization of the fishing fleet with a view to adjusting the quantity and quality of consumer supply and fishing capacity to available halieutic resources.

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

The territory of France including the overseas departments.

3. **Duration of the programme**

The programme has a term of validity of five years, from 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1988.

4. **Objective of the programme**

The objective of the programme is to:

(a) *for mainland France:*

- — maintain fishing capacity at its 1984 level,
- — improve the profitability of fishing undertakings,
- — respect the priorities laid down in the programme, namely:
  - — fishing with near-water company vessels,
  - — the fleets in certain ports or regions faced with special difficulties;

(b) *for overseas territories:*

- — develop and re-orient the fleet in relation to stocks and fishing conditions,
- — improve product quality,
- — progressively diminish the portion of shrimp fishing in Guyanese waters allotted to third countries.

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

5.1. *Construction*

- — stabilization of the total engine power of the mainland fleet for the full duration of the programme at its level on 31 December 1983, namely 914 000 kW,
- — monitoring of additions to the fleet, which must be offset by an overall withdrawal of vessels of an equivalent capacity,
- — observance of a reasonable balance in respect of additions to and withdrawals from the fleet between the various regions and types of fishery.

5.2. *Modernization*

Modernization aid will be restricted to measures aimed at improving on-board working and safety conditions or at improving the profitability of vessels, without initiating measures which result in an increase in the motor power of the vessels in question.

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

(a) *Mainland France:*

Coast	Additions to the fleet		Assumed withdrawals from the fleet (Power (kW))
	Power (kW)	Number	
Channel/North Sea	25 396	70	24 739
Atlantic coast	97 490	304	94 677
Mediterranean coast	16 244	67	15 268
Total	139 130	441	134 684

(b) *Overseas departments:*

	Additions to the fleet
Guadeloupe	26 vessels
Martinique	18 vessels
Guyana	85 vessels of which 35 shrimp boats
Réunion	5 vessels

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

— Total investments planned for the period 1984 to 1988: about 316 million ECU for French mainland and 33 million ECU for the overseas departments.

— Planned national aid: (State budget):

  — 1984: 13,82 million ECU,
  — 1985: 14,55 million ECU.

Aid in later years will be kept at the same level in francs at constant value, subject to annual finance laws. This financial information, as well as the breakdown between various measures, is indicative.

ANNEX II

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Commission notes that the programme submitted by the French Government having regard to the future national or Community actions of the common fisheries policy to bring about medium-term restructuring aimed at ensuring satisfactory economic conditions for the fishing industry, whilst observing a balance between catch potential and the capacity of the fishing fleet.

   The objective of maintaining engine power should, however, be accompanied by a permanent system of management of fishing capacity in association with the management of fishing resources. In this respect, the Commission considers that this system should include a control of definitive entries into and withdrawals from fishing activity by region and by type of fishing in order to ensure that the increase in capacity obtained by new boat building is globally compensated by an equivalent reduction in capacity. The effect of fleet modernization on its capacity should be monitored in the framework of this system.

2. The Commission requests that the French Government sees that the actions of local or regional authorities be contained within the present programme.

3. The Commission points out that the investment forecasts contained in the programme does not prejudge any future Community aid.

4. 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 France.
