COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 April 1985

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

(Only the Greek text is authentic)

(85/283/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 on 12 December 1984, the Greek Government forwarded a multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing industry, hereinafter referred to as 'the programme'; whereas on 11 February 1985, it forwarded the latest additional information concerning the programme;

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

Whereas the programme contains the information referred to in Article 4 of the Regulation;

Whereas the Greek fishing fleet is characterized by considerable obsolescence in particular as regards dates of hull construction; whereas, in order to ensure that the fishing fleet is restructured in a rational manner, the programme provides for fleet renewal, without any significant increase in overall tonnage, at a rate compatible with the medium-term prospects for the exploitation of fish stocks; whereas, the principal aims of renewal are to improve working conditions, and the conditions for processing and conserving catches, and to diversify fishing methods;

Whereas the programme lays special emphasis on middle-water fishing, the main source of Greek production, pointing out that the age and inadequate equipment of the middle-water fleet warrant the construction of new vessels, offset by equivalent overall withdrawals, and the modernization of existing vessels;

Whereas the programme may, having regard to 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 Greek Government on 12 December 1984, as last supplemented on 11 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 Hellenic 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 MULTIANNUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAMME IN RESPECT OF THE FISHING FLEET DRAWN UP BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2908/83

1. **Purpose of the programme**

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

2. **Areas concerned**

The territory of Greece.

3. **Duration**

The programme is valid until 31 December 1988.

4. **Objective of the programme**

The objective of the programme is to:

— stabilize the capacity of the fleet in the medium term whilst taking account of the need for the Greek fleet to extend its activities from its present fishing zones to more distant waters in the Mediterranean, Aegean and Ionian Seas;

— make energy savings and widen the fleet's field of activity;

— improve working and safety conditions on board;

— improve on-board storage and handing of catches with a view to improving catch quality and thus increasing economic efficiency.

5. **The following measures are proposed to attain this objective**

5.1. *Construction*

— attainment of an overall tonnage and total engine capacity of 124 000 grt and 683 000 hp respectively by 31 December 1988, i.e. an increase of roughly 6 000 grt and 84 000 hp compared with the position at 31 December 1983,

— monitoring of additions to and withdrawals from the fleet,

— promotion of permanent withdrawal from fishing activity, without replacement, by applying a system of final cessation premiums under Directive 83/515/EEC.

5.2. *Modernization*

— fuel-saving by replacement of engines,

— installation of refrigerating equipment to improve on-board storage of catches,

— installation of safety, navigation and fish-finding equipment.

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

6.1. *For vessel construction*

Type of fishery	Situation 1983		Situation 1988	
	grt	hp	grt	hp
Inshore	68 217	387 390	69 217	404 390
Middle-water	35 157	182 360	41 632	250 985
Distant-water	15 500	29 438	13 500	27 438
Total	118 874	599 188	124 349	682 813

These forecasts should be reached in equal stages.

Type of fishery	New vessels (number) (replacements)	Average change in hp per vessel	Average change in grt per vessel
Inshore	200	+ 79	+ 10
Middle-water			
— Trawlers/combination	100	+228	+ 60
— Seiners	50	+120	+ 41
— Distant-water	20	−100	−100

6.2. *For vessel modernization*

The plan is for 800 vessels to be modernized between 1984 and 1988 (550 middle-water and distant-water and 250 inshore vessels).

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

Total planned investments (1984 to 1988):

— for new vessels: 125 million ECU,

— for modernization: 81,5 million ECU.

Planned annual national aid for construction and modernization: 8,26 million ECU.

These financial estimates and the allocation among the various measures, are intended only as a guide.

ANNEX II

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Commission considers that the programme submitted by the Greek Government as a framework for future Community or national financing schemes, constitutes an initial measure, following the adoption of the common fisheries policy, to restructure the fleet in the medium-term, to ensure satisfactory economic conditions for the fishing industry and to improve the incomes of those employed in it.

   Given the situation of the fishing industry in Greece, its level of output and the lack of reliable data on fish stocks, the capacity target appears somewhat optimistic. The Greek authorities will therefore have to institute as soon as possible a system for monitoring fleet additions and withdrawals involving continuous surveillance of initiative as regards construction of new vessels and modernization of existing ones. The arrangements for applying this system must be notified to the Commission in the framework of the annual review of the programme. The Commission considers that the system should include a procedure to monitor the effects of vessel modernization on capacity.

   Furthermore, any changes in engine power must be monitored to avoid the risk of an uncontrolled increase in fishing effort.

   With regard to the restructuring of the distant water fishery, the Commission approves the intention of the Hellenic authorities of limiting the entry into service of new vessels replacing existing vessels to four boats per year (1 200 grt) from 1984. Moreover, taking account of the present situation with regard to fishing agreements between the Community and third countries concerned, it agrees that the situation should be reviewed in the light of experience acquired.

2. The Commission points out that the investment requirement contained in this programme does not imply any commitment as regards financial support from the Community.

3. The Commission considers that the programme targets and their attainment 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 with particular regard to stock evaluation studies being carried out at present. Moreover, it intends to reserve the right to return to the present decision at the end of 1986, within the framework of the annual review, in particular with regard to that of the distant water fleet, in the light of the development of the economic and structural situation of fishing enterprises in Greece.