COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 April 1985

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

(Only the English text is authentic)

(85/285/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 Irish Government forwarded on 4 March 1985 a multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing fleet, hereinafter called 'the 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 the Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83;

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

Whereas, to ensure the rational restructuring of the Irish fleet, the programme provides for the renewal of the fleet, without any increase in overall tonnage, in a manner compatible with the foreseeable availability of fish stocks in the medium term; whereas the principal aim of such renewal is to improve working conditions and catch processing and storage conditions and to diversify fishing methods;

Whereas the Irish authorities recently announced measures to improve the financial situation of the fishing fleet involving amongst other things a reduction in the rate of interest on mortgage loans contracted in respect of fishing vessels and the extension, in most cases, of the period of repayment of loans;

Whereas the fuel used by fishing vessels was recently exempted of all excise duty;

Whereas these measures are designed to improve the financial situation of the Irish fishing fleet;

Whereas the Irish authorities have already set up a permanent system for monitoring entries into service of vessels of more than 20 meters (65 feet) with a view to ensuring better use of available stocks and optimalising the 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 Irish Government on 4 March 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 Ireland.

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 IRISH 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 in service.

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

The territory of Ireland.

3. **Duration of the programme**

The programme is valid from 1 January 1985 to 31 December 1989.

4. **Objectives of the programme**

The objectives of the programme are 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 storage and processing of catches with a view to improving product quality and thereby increasing profitability.

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

5.1. *Construction*

— stabilization of the overall capacity of the fleet around the level of 32 000 grt existing at 31 December 1984,

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

5.2. *Modernization*

Modernization aid will be reserved by priority for vessels less than 25 years old and/or vessels fishing for pelagic species to be converted to multi-purpose vessels.

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

6.1. *For vessel construction (replacement)*

	1985 to 1989
Additions to the fleet	4 000 grt
Withdrawal from the fleet	4 000 grt

6.2. *For vessel modernization*

The maximum number of vessels scheduled for modernization in the period 1985 to 1989 is 37.

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

Total planned investments (1985 to 1989) in new vessels and modernization of vessels: 56 million ECU (£Irl 40 million);

State aid planned for construction and modernization of vessels: (1985 to 1989) 14 million ECU (£Irl 10 million).

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 Irish Government, which constitutes the future framework for the granting of financial aid both by the Community and by Ireland, constitutes an initial step, following the adoption of the common fisheries policy, towards medium-term restructuring of the fishing fleet, with the aim of ensuring satisfactory economic conditions for the fishing industry and of improving the income of those employed therein.

   As regards capacity, however, a continuous watch must be kept on initiatives involving the construction of new vessels and the modernization of existing ones. In this context, the Commission considers that the Irish authorities should extend their system of vessel licences as soon as possible in order to ensure a greater balance between stocks and capacity.

   The Commission likewise approves of the Irish authorities' intention to scrutinize very closely any application for the modernization or replacement of vessels.

   Lastly, the Commission feels that a system should be set up for monitoring the effect of vessel modernization on capacity.

2. The Commission approves the Irish authorities' intention to encourage some redeployment of the fleet in activities other than pelagic fishing by improving the multi-purpose nature of the vessels in question.

3. The Commission considers that the scheme to improve the financial situation of the Irish fleet published by Ireland on 12 February 1985, will have to be compatible with the present programme.

4. The Commission points out that the investment forecasts contained in this programme involve no commitment as regards any financial aid from the Community.

5. The Commission considers that, given available fish stocks and the state of the Irish market for fish, the programme targets and measures to attain them should be subjected to more detailed analysis within the framework of the annual review referred to in Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83. The Commission reserves its right to review its present decision by the end of 1986, in the light of developments in the structural and economic situation of fishing enterprises in Ireland.