COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 April 1985

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

(Only the Italian text is authentic)

(85/287/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 29 November 1984, the Italian Government forwarded a multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing industry, hereinafter referred to as 'the programme'; whereas on 6 March 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 Italian fleet is characterized by a preponderance of artisanal vessels and a high concentration of trawling capacity in certain waters; whereas it exhibits a considerable degree of obsolescence, in particular with regard to the date of hull construction;

Whereas, pending the outcome of research into evaluation of fish stocks, the multiannual guidance programme aims to maintain the capacity of the fleet at its level as at 31 December 1983;

Whereas the programme provides that the renewal of the fleet is to be accompanied by withdrawals of an overall gross tonnage equivalent to that of the additions to the fleet;

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 Italian Government on 29 November 1984, as last supplemented on 6 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 the Italian 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 ITALIAN 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 use.

2. **Areas concerned**

The Italian peninsula and islands.

3. **Duration**

The programme is valid until 31 December 1986.

4. **Objective of the programme**

The objective of the programme is to:

— stabilize the capacity of the fleet in the medium term pending the outcome of research into fish stock assessment,

— modulate fleet restructuring measures in such a way that, whilst serving to stabilize capacities, they cater for the needs of various geographical areas and the structural situation of various types of fishing; such modulation will make it possible to redeploy the fleet in activities other than trawling and to encourage investment in the regions bordering on the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas and the Islands,

— improve on-board catch handling conditions, the economic performance of vessels and the working conditions of those employed at sea.

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

5.1. *Construction*

— stabilization by 31 December 1986 of the overall capacity of the fleet at its level as at 31 December 1983, i.e. approximately 272 400 grt (1),

— reduction of the existing trawler fishing fleet in the Adriatic sea and in western Sicily and maintain the existing trawler fishing fleet operating in the other Mediterranean zones; this should result in an appreciable reduction in trawler fishing capacity by the end of the programme;

— monitoring of additions to the fleet which must be offset by the withdrawal of vessels of an overall gross tonnage equal to that built,

— encouragement of the permanent withdrawal of obsolete vessels by applying a system of final cessation premiums as provided for in Directive 83/515/EEC (2),

— fixing of priority criteria for the selection of projects likely to qualify for aid (see Annex II).

5.2. *Modernization*

Priority for the modernization of vessels between seven and 15 years old in order to improve their technical and economic performance and improve safety and working conditions on board.

(1) Figure given in special survey carried out for the programme, which may be revised following the review of the national statistical system.

(2) Article 13 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2908/83 lays down that projects relating to the construction of fishing vessels intended to replace vessels which have received aid for the permanent reduction of capacity under Directive 83/515/EEC are ineligible.

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

6.1. *For vessel construction (in grt)*

	1984	1985	1986
Additions to the fleet	2 843	7 047	8 413
Withdrawals from the fleet	874	7 324	10 147
— without public aid	874	2 324	2 647
— with public aid	—	5 000	7 500

6.2. *For vessel modernization (number of vessels)*

	1984	1985	1986
Vessels to be modernized	211	165	165

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

	1984	1985	1986
For new vessels	19,4	46,6	60,5
For modernization	19,9	16,3	18,2
Total	39,3	62,9	78,7

Total national aid planned by the Italian Government for the construction and modernization of vessels in the period 1984 to 1986 amounts to approximately 11 million ECU per year in capital grants and roughly 9 million ECU per year in low-interest loans.

These financial figures, 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 Italian 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 the industry.

   However, execution of the programme will have to proceed hand in hand with continuous surveillance of initiatives as regards the construction of new vessels and the modernization of the existing fleet, particularly from the point of view of the development of engine power.

   The Commission would therefore urge the Italian authorities to introduce a system for the management of stocks and capacities.

2. The Commission approves the Italian authorities' intention to redeploy part of the fleet in fishing activities other than trawling and to encourage investment in the regions bordering on the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas and the Islands. It considers that strict administrative conditions should be established in the case of vessels benefiting from aid within the framework of the redeployment. In particular fishing licences issued within this framework should; on the one hand, definitively prohibit all trawling activity for vessels other than trawlers, and on the other, ban all fishing in the Adriatic Sea for boats intending to carry out fishing activities in the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas or in the vicinity of the Islands.

3. The Commission notes that the forecasts supplied by the Italian authorities for the withdrawal of capacities to offset new vessels scheduled to enter into service by the end of 1986 include many of the withdrawals to be made under Directive 83/515/EEC, the Italian implementing provisions for which were notified to it on 21 April 1984 and 11 February 1985.

   The Commission wishes that this regime on its approval, could rapidly come into effect and that the withdrawals should, as a result, conform to the forecasts indicated in the programme.

4. The Commission notes the priorities to be applied by the Italian authorities in assessing projects eligible for aid (see Annex III). It considers that these priorities will have to be adjusted in the light of the development of the fleet and, in particular, the extent of withdrawals. With regard to the restructuring of the oceanic fishing, the Commission approves the intention of the Italian authorities to limit the entry into service of new boats to eight in number (2 700 grt) during the period of the implementation of the programme; it considers moreover, that all grants of aid in this sector should be conditional on the existance of a notified withdrawal of at least equal tonnage, or the commitment of the beneficiary to proceed with such a withdrawal. Moreover, the Commission wishes to affirm that, taking into account the present situation with regard to fishing agreements between the Community and the third countries concerned, it agrees that the situation should be reviewed in the light of experience gained.

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

6. 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 in the light of the stock evaluation surveys currently in progress and developments in the structural and economic situation of fishing enterprises in Italy.

ANNEX III

PRIORITIES TO BE APPLIED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS

CONSTRUCTION

Priority 1: Construction with direct withdrawal (in grt)

A. Projects in Calabria, Basilicata, Sardinia and eastern Sicily with compulsory withdrawals of at least 30 % excluding trawlers.

B. Vessel for tuna-fishing, ocean-going (1) and local fishing craft (2).

C. Projects other than those referred to in B in other regions of Italy, with compulsory withdrawals of at least 30 % (excluding trawlers).

D. Trawlers or vessels designed for clam gathering, with compulsory withdrawals of at least 70 %.

Priority 2: Construction with direct withdrawal (in grt)

A. Projects in Calabria, Basilicata, Sardinia and eastern Sicily with withdrawals of less than 30 % for all fishing techniques except trawling (withdrawal of 30 to 70 %).

B. Projects in Liguria, Tuscany, Lazio and Campania with withdrawals of less than 30 % for all fishing techniques except trawling (withdrawals of 30 to 70 %).

C. Projects in Adriatic regions and in other areas of Sicily with withdrawals of less than 30 % for all fishing techniques except trawling or clam gathering.

Priority 3: Construction without direct withdrawal

A. Projects in Calabria, Basilicata, Sardinia and eastern Sicily.

B. Vessel for tuna-fishing, ocean-going (1) and local fishing craft (2).

C. Projects in Liguria, Tuscany, Lazio and Campania.

D. Projects in the Adriatic regions and in other areas of Sicily.

MODERNIZATION

Two criteria are applied relating to the age of the vessel and the work to be done.

Priortiy 1A

Projects involving vessels between seven and 15 years old in the Mezzogiorno, aimed at (3):

A1: reducing operating costs, achieving fuel savings (technologically advanced engine) and greater mechanization of fishing operations (winches, cranes, etc.).

A2: improving product preservation (refrigeration equipment, icemaking machine).

A3: enhancing work safety and conditions on board (restructuring and consolidation of hull, accomodation, deck, electronic equipment, etc.).

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(1) Priority only effective where the administration confirms that the new vessel will be used in the waters of third countries with which the EEC has concluded agreements.

(2) Priority only effective where the fishing licence for the new vessel stipulates that the latter may not engage in trawling.

(3) Modernization projects must be technically and economically coordinated from the point of view of the work purchases involved, e.g. structural work, purchase of engine, radar, echosounder and refrigeration equipment.

Priority 1B

Modernization of vessels between seven and 15 years old in other areas of Italy, with a view to introducing the improvements referred to in A1, A2 and A3.

Priority 2A

Modernization of vessels over 15 years old in the Mezzogiorno, with a view to introducing the improvements referred to in A1, A2 and A3.

Priority 2B

Modernization of vessels over 15 years old in other areas, with a view to introducing the improvements referred to in A1, A2 and A3.

Priority 3A

Modernization of vessels between seven and 15 years old involving work and purchases which contribute only partly to an effective improvement in the economic, technical and operational performance of the fishing undertaking concerned.

Priority 3B

Modernization of vessels over 15 years old with a view to introducing the improvements referred to in 3A.

Priority 4

Modernization of vessels less than seven or more than 30 years old.