COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 April 1985

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

(Only the Dutch text is authentic)

(85/289/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 Netherlands Government forwarded on 30 November 1984 a multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing industry, hereinafter called 'the programme'; whereas it forwarded on 13 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 growth of the Dutch fishing fleet in recent years has resulted in overcapacity in relation to the stocks available; whereas the fleet, and in particular the cutter fleet, must be reduced in order to bring it into line with fish stocks;

Whereas a system of licences for the cutter fleet was introduced with effect from 1 February 1985 so that its capacity could be better controlled;

Whereas the vessels fishing for crustaceans need to be modernized;

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 Netherlands Government on 30 November 1984, as last supplemented on 13 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 the Netherlands.

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 NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2908/83

1. **Purpose of the programme**

Restructuring of the fishing fleet with a view to adjusting its capacity to available fish stocks.

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

The territory of the Netherlands with the exception of the IJsselmeer.

3. **Duration of the programme**

The programme will remain in force until 31 December 1986.

4. **Objective of the programme**

The objective of the programme is to:

— search for a better relationship between production costs and returns, in association with catch possibilities; to this end, a reduction of the fleet is a first stage towards its adaptation to the catch possibilities,

— 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.

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

5.1. *Construction*

— reduction of the capacity of the cutter fleet to 460000 hp and of the distant-water fleet to 70000 hp,

— control of additions to the cutter fleet by means of a system of licences,

— promotion of definitive withdrawal from fishing activity,

— promotion of exploratory fishing, particularly in the case of the distant-water fleet,

— promotion of joint ventures so as to diversify the activity of the distant-water fleet,

— obligation to reduce the engine power of new flatfish vessels by 25 % compared with the power of the vessels they replace and which request State aids.

5.2. *Modernization*

Vessel modernization is encouraged provided it does not bring about an increase in engine power.

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

The total amount of investment envisaged for the duration of the programme is 44 million ECU to attain the foreseen objectives.

National aid planned for the period 1984 to 1986:

— Restructuring:	2,3 million ECU
— Exploratory fishing/joint ventures:	3,6 million ECU
— Definitive withdrawal:	1,2 million ECU
Total	7,1 million ECU

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

ANNEX II

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Commission notes that the programme submitted by the Netherlands Government to serve as the future framework for Community and national aid constitutes an initial action, 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 the persons employed in the industry.

2. On the basis of the figures available at the start of 1985 on the capacity of the existing fleet plus vessels under construction, expressed in terms of engine power, in order to attain the objective which has been set the distant-water fleet would have to be reduced by about 20000 hp.

   For cutter-fishing, the diminution of power in order to realize the objective established entails a reduction of 75000 hp to which should be added the increase after the introduction of the licencing system of 1 February 1985. The implementation of the programme will therefore have to be accompanied by continuous monitoring of developments in respect both of the construction of new vessels and the modernization of the existing fleet.

   The Commission therefore request the Dutch authorities to keep it informed of developments in the structural situation and to take any measures necessary to ensure that capacity is properly adjusted, especially in the framework of the licensing system introduced for the cutter fleet with effect from 1 February 1985.

3. The Commission wishes to point out that the investment forecasts contained in the programme are without prejudice to any Community financial aid.

4. The Commission considers, lastly, that the programme forecasts and their actual implementation should form the subject of a more detailed analysis, having regard in particular to the stock evaluation studies currently in progress, 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 the Netherlands.