COMMISSION DECISION

of 24 April 1985

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

(Only the English text is authentic)

(85/291/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 8 October 1984 the United Kingdom Government forwarded a multiannual guidance programme in respect of the fishing industry, hereinafter referred to as '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 United Kingdom fleet consists, to a large extent, of deep-sea vessels whose exploitation potential is steadily falling owing to changes in the international context; whereas, to ensure the rational restructuring of this category of vessels, the programme provides for a substantial reduction in production capacity; whereas this measure will be financed by means of final cessation premiums;

Whereas the programme also provides for renewal of the inshore fishing fleet; whereas the majority of inshore fishing vessels are more than 20 years old; whereas renewal is aimed chiefly at the modernization of existing vessels and the replacement of vessels in a condition warranting their withdrawal;

Whereas, for the purposes of the restructuring of the fleet, a system of licences was introduced in February 1984 whereby additions to the fleet and, consequently, the fishing effort can be controlled;

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 United Kingdom Government on 8 October 1984, as last supplemented on 19 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 United Kingdom.

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

1. **Purpose of the programme**

Restructuring of the fishing fleet by the adaptation and partial modernization of the deep-sea fleet and the modernization and renewal of the inshore fleet.

2. **Areas concerned**

The entire territory of the United Kingdom.

3. **Duration**

The programme is valid from 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1986.

4. **Objective of the programme**

The programme aims at the modernization and partial renewal of the fishing fleet, about 50 % of which (in terms of numbers as regards vessels longer than 12 meters) is more than 20 years old and which is not optimally distributed among the various types of fishing to the extent that the deep-sea fleet has to be reduced further and the inshore fleet has to be renewed and modernized without any significant increase in the actual capacity.

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

5.1. *Construction*

— reduction of the overall capacity of the deep-sea fleet to arrive at a tonnage of approximately 38 000 grt at 31 December 1986 and slight expansions of the inshore fleet to arrive at a tonnage of around 109 000 grt at the same date,

— encouragement of permanent withdrawal from fishing, without replacement in accordance with Directive 83/515/EEC,

— control of fishing activity in certain waters and in respect of certain stocks so as to avoid the risk of overfishing.

5.2 *Modernization*

Encouragement of the modernization of inshore and middlewater fishing vessels given the degree of obsolescence found in these categories.

6. **Investments forecasts**

6.1 *For vessel construction (number and grt)*

United Kingdom fishing fleet

	Total	
	Number	grt
Fleet additions		
Deep sea	16	1 120
Inshore	164	4 286
Total	180	5 406
Fleet withdrawals		
Deep-sea	69	34 997
Inshore	83	3 320
Total	152	38 317

6.2 *Constructions by region*

	England and Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
	Number	grt	Number	grt	Number	grt
Total	87	1 840	77	3 146	16	420

6.3 *Withdrawals by region*

	England and Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
	Number	grt	Number	grt	Number	grt
Total	100	33 285	37	3 792	15	1 240

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

Total investments anticipated for the new vessel constructions 1984 to 1986: 65 million ECU. These financial data are indicative.

ANNEX II

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Commission considers that the programme submitted by the United Kingdom 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 activities of the United Kingdom fleet in a manner which will ensure the appropriate development of the fleet in line with actual catch possibilities and will lead to an improvement in the incomes of those employed in the industry.

   The established capacity targets should be coupled with a permanent system of management of the catch capacity linked with the management of the fishing resources.

   This system, which has to be installed within a reasonable period, should include the monitoring of initiatives with regard to constructions of new vessels and modernization of the existing fleet.

   In this connection, the Commission considers that the system of fishing licences introduced by the United Kingdom authorities can provide a measure of controlling fishing effort if it is improved.

   Furthermore, the development of the engine power of the fleet should be monitored so as to avoid any likelihood of an increase in fishing effort. To this effort, the United Kingdom authorities will have to include arrangements for measuring engine power in their system.

2. The Commission requests the United Kingdom Government to ensure that measures taken by regional or local authorities are compatible with this programme.

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

4. 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 developments in the structural and economic situation of the fishing industry in the United Kingdom.