COMMISSION DECISION

of 11 December 1987

on the multiannual guidance programme for the fishing fleet (1987 to 1991) forwarded by Ireland pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86

(Only the English text is authentic)

(88/142/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 of 18 December 1986 on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector [1], and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas the Irish Government forwarded to the Commission a multiannual guidance programme for the fishing fleet, hereinafter referred to as 'the programme'; whereas it forwarded at a later date additional information concerning the programme;

Whereas it is necessary to consider whether, having regard to the foreseeable trend in fishery resources, the market for fishery and aquaculture products, the measures adopted under the common fisheries policy and the guidelines for the latter, the programme fulfills the conditions laid down in Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 and constitutes a suitable framework for Community and national financial aid for the sector concerned;

Whereas a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources was introduced by Council Regulation (EEC) No 170/83 [2];

Whereas Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 is aimed at facilitating the structural development of the fisheries sector within the framework of the guidelines of the common fisheries policy; whereas such structural development may be encouraged by appropriate measures supported with Community financial aid;

Whereas such measures should help to create a fishing fleet that is adapted to likely medium-term catch opportunities in both Community and non-Community waters; whereas these measures should, in particular, be based on an attempt to ensure balanced exploitation of internal resources in Community waters;

Whereas the measures implemented under the Community rules adopted for the decade from 1987 to 1997 are a continuation of the efforts made since 1983 to improve the structural situation up to 31 December 1986 through common measures to restructure, modernize and develop the fisheries sector; whereas, therefore, the objectives of the previous programme approved by Commission Decision 85/285/EEC [3] constitute the reference basis for assessing the actual development recorded and the effort still needed to ensure that the Community objectives are achieved;

Whereas the objectives of the preceding guidance programme for 1986 have not been fully achieved; whereas the current or likely situation as regards availabilities in conjunction with the activities of the fleet concerned do not allow for any adjustment of the forecast on the basis of which these objectives were determined and approved; whereas the efforts made to adapt the fleet should therefore be sustained and strengthened over the period 1987 to 1991;

Whereas these forecasts could be reviewed were there to be any significant change in availabilities, backed up by scientific evidence, and in the light of the development of international fishery relations between the Community and coastal third States;

Whereas, in addition, the scope of the planned modernization efforts implies a substantial improvement in the overall performance of the fleet concerned which should be taken into account when assessing the relationship to be achieved by the end of the programme period between fishing capacities and availabilities;

Whereas the desired structural adjustments should be implemented on a gradual and continuing basis to reduce the economic and social impact they may have to a minimum;

Whereas the development recorded should be monitored on a regular basis so as to improve or adjust the fishery support measures that accompany the implementation of the programme;

Whereas any development that does not comply with the programme objectives would run counter to the objectives of the common fisheries policy; whereas, therefore, certain specific measures undertaken under this programme may not warrant public financial assistance; whereas, in this context, approval of the programme should only be effective where the limitations and conditions upon which such approval was made conditional are complied with;

[1] OJ No L 376, 31. 12. 1986, p. 7.
[2] OJ No L 24, 27. 1. 1983, p. 1.
[3] OJ No L 157, 15. 6. 1985, p. 23.

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 for the fishing fleet (1987 to 1991), as forwarded by the Irish Government and as later supplemented by that Government, is hereby approved subject to the limitations and conditions set out in this Decision and provided that those limitations and conditions are complied with.

Article 2

Each year, at the latest by 15 February and the 31 July, Ireland shall forward to the Commission, in respect of each category of vessels defined in the programme, information on the number of vessels commissioned and withdrawn and on the tonnage and engine power added and withdrawn during the six-month period ending on the preceding 31 December or 30 June.

Article 3

The approval referred to in Article 1 shall only be effective where the development of the fleet complies with the objectives of the programme as set out in the Annex hereto.

The Commission shall, on the basis of its assessment of the information provided on a regular basis as specified in Article 2 or, where this information is repeatedly not supplied, notify the Member State, at the end of two consecutive six-month periods, that it has been found that the conditions to which approval of the programme was made subject have not been fulfilled.

Article 4

This Decision shall be without prejudice to any Community financial aid that may be granted to individual investment projects.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Irish Republic.

Done at Brussels, 11 December 1987.

For the Commission

António CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Multiannual guidance programme for the Irish fishing fleet (1987 to 1991)

I. GENERAL REMARKS

The programme relates to the whole of the Irish fishing fleet and covers the entire territory of Ireland.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. The aims of the programme are:

   (a) to reduce the overall capacity of the fleet;

   (b) to renew and modernize the fleet; principally with regard to all boats of less than 12 metres length.

2. The following limitations should apply to the development of the fleet during the period covered by the programme:

(Tonnage (GRT))

	Objective of programme 2908/83	Situation at 1. 1. 1987	Objective at 31. 12. 1991
Vessels less than 12 m	7 000	8 264	6 790
Vessels 12 m and over	38 300	44 801	37 151
Total	45 300	53 065	43 941

(Engine power (kW))

	Objective of programme 2908/83 (1)	Situation at 1. 1. 1987 (1)	Objective at 31. 12. 1991
Vessels less than 12 m	28 000	33 056	27 440
Vessels 12 and over	153 200	179 204	150 136
Total	181 200	212 260	177 576

(1) Estimates; within six months of this Decision, Ireland must confirm or modify these estimations, in agreement with the Commission. In case of modification, the objectives of 31 December 1991 will be adopted.

III. PLANNED MEASURES

The following measures should be implemented to achieve the objectives set out above:

— reduction in the overall capacity of the fleet of at least 9 124 GRT and 34 684 kW through a cutback of 1 474 GRT and 5 616 kW for all vessels of up to 12 metres and of 7 650 GRT and 29 068 kW for all vessels equal to or greater than 12 metres.

IV. COMMENTS

1. The objectives recorded in the table for point II (2) can only be revised on the basis of exact scientific evaluations leading to the establishment of the existence of resources which are not fully exploited at present.

2. It may be possible to consider a certain increase in the individual tonnage and average engine power of vessels in the Irish coastal fleet during the course of the implementation of the programme for reasons of navigating safety and to improve working conditions and the conservation of existing stocks in coastal areas. Such an increase, where appropriate, would have to be in line with the available stocks likely to be fished by that fleet.

3. At least 20 % of the programme objectives should be achieved by the end of 1988 and at least 80 % by the end of 1990.

4. The Commission recalls that any structural financial measures taken by the national; regional or local authorities in respect of the sector concerned must henceforth lie within the scope of this programme.