COMMISSION DECISION

of 29 April 1992

on a transitional guidance programme for the fishing fleet (1992) of Greece pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86

(Only the Greek text is authentic)

(92/366/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), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3944/90 (2), and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas, on 30 April 1991, the Government of Greece forwarded to the Commission a multiannual guidance programme for the fishing fleet for the period 1992 to 1996, hereinafter referred to as 'the programme', as required by Article 3 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86; 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 fulfils 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 the objectives of the previous programme approved by Commission Decision 88/148/EEC (3), as amended by Decision 90/106/EEC (4), 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 guidance programme for 1991 have not been uniformly achieved; whereas the current or likely situation as regards availability of fish in conjunction with the activities of the fleet concerned does 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 1992 to 1996, in view of the fact that availability of fish continues to deteriorate;

Whereas 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 fleet capacity and fish availability;

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;

Whereas it is important that the overall reduction in fishing effort judged to be necessary in order to adapt the Community fleet to available resources should reflect significant reductions in particular segments of that fleet where an imbalance is most apparent; whereas there is insufficient information available at present to achieve comprehensive segmentation of the fleet in accordance with stocks and zones fished; whereas a broader range of parameters should therefore be developed to evaluate fishing effort as well as fleet capacity;

Whereas the Commission cannot approve programmes for the full period until adequate information is available to Member States to permit this new approach and additional time will be required to execute the work programme necessary to complete this process;

Whereas it is not appropriate to interrupt the process of reduction of the fleet inherent in the guidance programmes; whereas transitional programmes, for the period 1 January to 31 December 1992, should therefore be approved;

Whereas further reduction in fleet capacity is needed in view of the present state of the fish stocks; whereas available information indicates that a minimum reduction of 2% expressed in tonnage and engine power, based on the objectives for the end of 1991, is necessary to compensate for technological progress; whereas in addition to that reduction, a certain percentage reduction is also necessary for catching-up, in the case of those Member States which have not reached the 1991 objectives;

(1) OJ No L 373, 31. 12. 1986, p. 7.
(2) OJ No L 380, 31. 12. 1990, p. 1.
(3) OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1988, p. 23.
(4) OJ No L 66, 14. 3. 1990, p. 19.

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

A transitional guidance programme for the fishing fleet covering the period up to the end of 1992 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

At the latest by the end of July 1992 and the end of February 1993, Greece shall forward the Commission, in respect of each category of vessel 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 30 June or 31 December.

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.

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 Republic of Greece.

Done at Brussels, 29 April 1992.

For the Commission
Manuel MARÍN
Vice-President

ANNEX

TRANSITIONAL GUIDANCE PROGRAMME FOR THE GREEK FISHING FLEET (1992)

I. GENERAL REMARKS

This programme relates to the whole of the Greek fishing fleet and covers the entire territory of Greece.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. The aims of the programme are:

   (a) to reduce the overall level of the operational fishing fleet to 64 627 GRT and 237 658 kW, in accordance with point II.2 below;

   (b) to modernize the vessels of the Mediterranean fleet with a view to improving the safety of vessels at sea and the fishermen on board;

   (c) to redeploy fishing activities in coastal areas towards more distant and deeper waters;

   (d) to improve the supervision and control of fishing operations and changes in the size of the fleet;

   (e) to modernize existing vessels without increasing overall fishing capacity (expressed in tonnage and engine power) in the category to which the vessels concerned belong. Modernization measures must give priority to the introduction of selective fishing gear and the improvement of facilities for the on-board preservation and treatment of catches.

2. During the period covered by the programme the operational fishing fleet, with the exception of:

   — working vessels used solely for aquaculture,

   — vessels used solely for bivalve fishing,

   must remain within the following limits:

Tonnage

(in GRT)

Type	Objectives of 1986 programme at 31. 12. 1986	Situation at 1. 1. 1987 (1)	Situation at 1. 1. 1992	Objectives at			Objective at 31. 12. 1992
				31. 12. 1989	31. 12. 1990	31. 12. 1991	
1. Mediterranean fleet:	107 859	(2)				(2)	(2)
— coastal (2)							
— middle-water		37 806				38 790	37 991 (3)
— distant-water		1 000				1 160	1 160 (3)
2. Ocean-going fleet	26 800	33 043				25 996	25 476 (3)
Total A	134 659	71 849	67 395			65 946	64 627
Vessels used for aquaculture and bivalve fishing							
Total B							

(1) Including vessels under construction at 1 January 1987.
(2) With regard to the figures for coastal fisheries, the Commission will adopt a decision as soon as possible updating these figures. Global figures will consequently be adjusted.
(3) Some flexibility can be allowed between these segments of the fleet.

Engine power

(kW)

Type	Objectives of 1986 programme at 31. 12. 1986	Situation at 1. 1. 1987 (1)	Situation at 1. 1. 1992	Objectives at			Objective at 31. 12. 1992
				31. 12. 1989	31. 12. 1990	31. 12. 1991	
1. Mediterranean fleet:	457 147	(2)				(2)	(2)
— coastal (2)							
— middle-water		220 619				193 455	189 493 (3)
— distant-water		4 000				4 640	4 640 (3)
2. Ocean-going fleet	45 320	57 696				44 413	43 525 (3)
Total A	502 467	282 315	230 900			242 508	237 658
Vessels used for aquaculture and bivalve fishing							
Total B							

(1) Including vessels under construction at 1 January 1987.
(2) With regard to the figures for coastal fisheries, the Commission will adopt a decision as soon as possible updating these figures. Global figures will consequently be adjusted.
(3) Some flexibility can be allowed between these segments of the fleet.

III. PLANNED MEASURES

1.1. Whereas the objectives specified at point II.2, Total A require fishing capacity to be reduced by the difference between the situation at 1 January 1992 and the target to be achieved by 31 December 1992, account must also be taken of changes, if any, in fishing capacity resulting from:

— projects for new construction which have qualified for Community and national aid in respect of 1991,

— applications for Community financing of projects for new construction currently under consideration by the Commission (1),

— vessels joining or leaving the fleet during 1992, if not covered by the first two subparagraphs,

which, when added, give the overall fishing capacity to be reduced.

1.2. The reduction referred to in point III.1.1 above must be achieved by the following measures, provided that the fishing capacities used remain within the limits laid down in the programme, although the reduction achieved by each measure may be varied provided that the overall fishing capacity defined in III.1.1 is reduced as planned:

— a reduction in the total fleet by renewal of operational vessels which have been damaged or lost at sea, in particular by the withdrawal of operational units directly linked with new vessels, in line with the guidelines and objectives laid down at point II.2,

— the adoption and implementation of measures to adjust fishing capacity, such as the granting of the final cessation premiums as compensation for any necessary reductions which cannot be achieved by the methods referred to in the first subparagraph,

— other measures which enable the same results to be achieved.

2. Establishment of a register of fishing vessels.

3. Reduction of in-shore fishing capactiy (vessels measuring less than nine metres between perpendiculars).

(1) Overall capactiy may be adjusted to take account of the withdrawal of applications for financing currently under examination by the Commission.

4. Redeployment of the coastal fleet by the withdrawal of obsolete or unsuitable vessels and by encouraging the use of more selective fishing techniques.

5. Restructuring and modernization of the middle-water fleet by deploying vessels that can be used more flexibly.

6. Reduction of the ocean-going fleet by encouraging the permanent withdrawal of existing vessels.

7. Adoption and implementation of legislative and/or administrative measures designed to ensure effective control of fishing capacity and fishing activities with a view to achieving the objectives specified in point I.2 above.

IV. COMMENTS

1. The objectives for the fleet given in the above table can be revised only on the basis of scientific evaluations leading to the establishment of the existence of resources which are not fully exploited at present.

2. The objectives in tonnage and power of the programme for 1992 should be fully realized by 31 December 1992 at the latest. Reductions in fishing capacity greater than or equal to those fixed for the objectives at 31 December 1991 which were achieved by Member States [1] can be taken into account in 1992. In that case, the Member States may achieve a minimum of 75 % of the overall reduction for 1992 indicated in the present Annex through permanent withdrawal of vessels from fishing, while the remaining maximum of 25 % can be attained through fishing control measures as long as they are based on permanent legal or administrative measures.

3. The Commission recalls that structural financial interventions by national, regional or local authorities in favour of the sector concerned should henceforth be inserted within the framework of the present programme.

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[1] On the basis of data provided by 15 February 1992 at the latest, in accordance with Article 2 of the Decision of the Commission on the multiannual guidance programme for the period 1987 to 1991.