COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 December 1991

on the multiannual guidance programme for aquaculture (1992 to 1996) submitted by Denmark pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86

(Only the Danish text is authentic)

(92/64/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 Articles 2 and 4 thereof,

Whereas the structural policies implemented by the Community in the aquaculture sector must have development objectives which are compatible with all Community policies and must contribute to the establishment of the common economic area;

Whereas those objectives must ensure more far-reaching economic and social cohesion while allowing market rules to apply;

Whereas it is more important to create the conditions favourable to development than to make provision for specific measures only;

Whereas steps should be taken to coordinate, in a comprehensive and coherent framework, the operations of the financial instruments both in the Community and in the Member States;

Whereas, in areas where it is being developed, aquaculture interacts with the natural environment; whereas, in certain circumstances, aquaculture may in some cases affect the environment positively and in others negatively;

Whereas Council Directives 91/67/EEC [3], 91/492/EEC [4] and 91/493/EEC [5] harmonize the rules governing animal health and public health as applied to fish farms;

Whereas pressure on space and in particular intense competition regarding the use of the coastline are a major constraint on the development of aquaculture; whereas it is essential, therefore, that preference be given to a policy of identifying sites which are suitable for the development of aquaculture as an integral part of the landscape and to coastline development projects;

Whereas the future of aquaculture will be determined also by the ability of the industry to increase the range of production by operating experimental farms and pilot projects arising from research;

Whereas on 29 April 1991 the Danish Government forwarded to the Commission a multiannual guidance programme for aquaculture, hereinafter called 'the programme'; whereas on 17 September 1991 it forwarded the latest additional information concerning the programme;

Whereas the aim of the programme is to improve the environmental conditions of existing aquaculture production units, to increase eel production and to develop other chains of production of fish, molluscs and crustaceans in the aquaculture sector in Denmark; whereas the Member State considers that approximately ECU 34 million are necessary for the completion of the programme; whereas the approval of the programme is without prejudice to any later selection of individual investment projects;

Whereas the programme concerns all the structural policies implemented in the aquaculture sector of the Member State concerned;

Whereas the aquaculture sector is developing within a commercial framework, a feature of which is the growth of international competition; whereas the development of the market in aquaculture species could entail the need to adjust the objectives for the production of certain species;

Whereas flexible planning is required based on routine monitoring of the factors of production and market conditions; whereas a close watch needs to be kept on the programme, therefore, and this can only be done if reliable figures are available which are regularly updated and which apply to the national territory as a whole;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee for the Fishing Industry,

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[1] OJ No L 376, 31. 12. 1986, p. 7.
[2] OJ No L 380, 31. 12. 1990, p. 1.
[3] OJ No L 46, 19. 2. 1991, p. 1.
[4] OJ No L 268, 24. 9. 1991, p. 1.
[5] OJ No L 268, 24. 9. 1991, p. 15.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The multiannual guidance programme for aquaculture (1992 to 1996), as forwarded by the Danish Government on 29 April 1991 and as last supplemented on 17 September 1991, the essential contents of which are set out in the Annex hereto, is hereby approved subject to the conditions laid down in this Decision.

Article 2

1. The planning of the measures for the development and rationalization of aquaculture production corresponding to the investments provided for in the Annex hereto shall be carried out with due regard for the priorities set by the various Regulations governing the Community structural policies.

2. Special attention must be given during the implementation of the programme to the interaction between the development of the aquaculture sector and the environment and to the health conditions of fish farms and their products.

3. Preference shall be given to investment projects to which the Member State applies rules favourable to the development of aquaculture.

4. Preference shall be given to innovative projects based on adequate research work and ensuring in the long term the diversification of production.

5. The production objectives of the programme must be checked at regular intervals and adjusted, if necessary, in line with the development of the market for fishery and aquaculture products.

6. Special attention must be given to the technical viability of eel farms and to their adequate and regular supply with juveniles.

Article 3

The Commission shall inform the Member State, if necessary, within six months following 1 April each year, of the failure to comply with the conditions to which approval of the programme was made subject, on the basis of an examination of the periodic summary reports provided for in Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86, or in the absence thereof.

Article 4

The Commission draws attention to the fact that the investment estimates contained in this programme are without prejudice to any financial aid the Community may grant.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Denmark.

Done at Brussels, 20 December 1991.

For the Commission

Manuel MARÍN

Vice-President

ANNEX

MULTIANNUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAMME — AQUACULTURE DENMARK

Principal sectors

Portion-size trout (for export), rainbow trout, eel.

Regions/locations

Freshwater aquaculture : chiefly North and West Jutland.

Off-shore sea cages (trout).

Farms using recirculated water : chiefly trout and eel throughout the country.

Environment

The investments in freshwater farms will be subject to the new laws governing the quality and composition of the feed that may be introduced into the water.

Restrictions on authorizations for installation of off-shore sea cages.

Research

To be carried out by public institutions (the Danish Veterinary and Agricultural College) and the private sector.

The method employed by farms using recirculated water requires a complete command of micro-biology.

Directed towards the production of high-quality disease-resistant stocks.

Study of stress (in eel production).

Diseases

Development of vaccines.

Legislative aspects/funding of investments

Offshore sea cages : authorization, where required, is granted by the Ministry of Fisheries.

Farms using recirculated water and freshwater installations are the responsibility of the Regional Council.

The Danish aquaculture programme for 1992 to 1996 will cost ECU 34 million.

Market

Mainly for export (trout and eel).

Particular attention must be devoted to the eel market.

Priorities/objectives

To improve environmental conditions and ensure compliance by farms, particularly freshwater trout farms, with all rules on the environment.

To expand the market for freshwater production beyond production for export and to enable these stocks to be transferred to off-shore sea cages or to systems using recirculated water where they can be marketed better throughout the year.

To increase the production of eels for consumption and for commercial restocking.

To establish a ground-based system for the cultivation of mussels and oysters.

To launch and develop other species (turbot, sole, sea bass, lobster).