COMMISSION DECISION

of 15 December 1994

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural measures for improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products in the United Kingdom, except for the Objective 1 regions of Merseyside, Highlands and Islands and Northern Ireland, in respect of Objective 5 (a), covering the period between 1994 and 1999

(Only the English text is authentic)

(94/836/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 of 29 March 1990 on improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2843/94 [2], and in particular Article 10 (a) thereof,

Whereas on 29 April 1994 the United Kingdom Government submitted to the Commission the Single Programming Document referred to in Article 10 (a) of Regulation (EEC) No 866/90, supplemented by additional information sent on 5 July, 19 August, 26 September, 27 September, 19 October and 21 October 1994; whereas that document contains the plans designed to improve the structures relating to the various product sectors referred to in Article 2 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 and the aid applications referred to in Article 10 (a) of that Regulation;

Whereas the Single Programming Document meets the conditions of and contains the information required in Article 1 (3) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 860/94 of 18 April 1994 on plans and applications, in the form of operational programmes, for aid from the Guidance Section of the EAGGF for investments for improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural and forestry products [3];

Whereas the Single Programming Document was drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned under the partnership as defined in Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 of 24 June 1988 on the tasks of the Structural Funds and their effectiveness and on coordination of activities between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments [4], as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93 [5];

Whereas the second indent of Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1866/90 of 2 July 1990 on arrangements for using the ecu for the purposes of the budgetary management of the Structural Funds [6], as amended by Regulation (EC) No 402/94 [7], provides that in Commission decisions approving Single Programming Documents, the Community assistance decided upon for the entire period and the annual breakdown thereof are to be set out in ecus, at prices for the year in which the decision is taken, and are to be subject to indexation; whereas the annual breakdown must be compatible with the progressive increase in commitment appropriations as set out in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as amended; whereas the indexation is to be based on a single rate per year corresponding to the rates applied annually to the Community budget on the basis of the mechanisms for technical adjustment of the financial perspectives;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities [8], as last amended by Regulation (ECSC, EC, Euratom) No 2730/94 [9], provides that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year are to contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas, during the implementation of the Single Programming Document, the Member State is to ensure that the individual projects included therein will conform with the selection criteria for investments for improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products currently in force, in application of Article 8 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 866/90;

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[1] OJ No L 91, 6. 4. 1990, p. 1.
[2] OJ No L 302, 25. 11. 1994, p. 1.
[3] OJ No L 99, 19. 4. 1994, p. 7.
[4] OJ No L 185, 15. 7. 1988, p. 9.
[5] OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 5.
[6] OJ No L 170, 3. 7. 1990, p. 36.
[7] OJ No L 54, 25. 2. 1994, p. 9.
[8] OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.
[9] OJ No L 293, 12. 11. 1994, p. 7.

Whereas the United Kingdom has given assurances that it will not accept any increase in capacities for any projects eligible for funding under Regulation (EEC) No 866/90; that under these circumstances the Single Planning Document can be approved at this stage, although, as a condition for the further financial participation of the Community, additional information on capacity required in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 860/94 has still to be provided to the Commission within a short period;

Whereas if this information is not available within a short period the Commission will need to reconsider the approval foreseen in the present Decision;

Whereas in order to ensure clarity over the whole of the conditions governing the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 in the United Kingdom this Member State will submit to the Commission, before 15 February 1995, a consolidated version of the Single Programming Document showing the agreement reached by the partnership, as set out within the document annexed to the present Decision (1); that this consolidated version must contain all the information required in accordance with Article 10 (a) of Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 and Articles 8, 9, 10 and 14 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88;

Whereas Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 states that the Member States will supply the Commission with appropriate financial information to verify that the principal of additionality is complied with; that this verification should be made for the whole of the Objective 5 (a) measures in each Member State concerned; that the analysis of the information supplied or still to be supplied by the United Kingdom authorities does not yet allow this verification and therefore must be continued within the framework of partnership; that final verification of the respect of the principal of additionality is essential for the continuation of the award of EAGGF aid to the measures which are the subject of the present Decision;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural measures for improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products in the United Kingdom, except for the Objective 1 regions of Merseyside, Highlands and Islands and Northern Ireland, covering the period from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1999, is hereby approved.

Article 2

The sectors included for joint action are:

— meat,
— milk and milk products,
— eggs and poultry,
— cereals,
— oil producing crops,
— potatoes,
— fruit and vegetables,
— flowers and plants,
— various vegetable products,
— seeds.

Article 3

The assistance from the EAGGF granted in respect of that Single Programming Document shall amount to a maximum of ECU 226 487 000.

The methods of approval of the financial assistance, including the EAGGF contribution to the sectors adopted for joint action, are specified within the implementation provisions and the financial plans annexed to the present Decision (2).

Article 4

For the purposes of indexation, the annual breakdown of the planned maximum overall allocation for assistance from the EAGGF shall be as follows:

ECU (1994 prices)

1994	38 594 000
1995	39 252 000
1996	35 483 000
1997	36 395 000
1998	37 729 000
1999	39 034 000
Total	226 487 000

Article 5

The budget commitment for the first tranche shall be ECU 38 594 000.

(1) The Annexes are not published in the Official Journal.

(2) The Annexes are not published in the Official Journal.

The commitments for subsequent tranches shall be based on the financing plan for the Single Programming Document and on progress made in implementation.

Article 6

The Community assistance shall relate only to expenditure connected with operations covered by this Single Programming Document which have been the subject, in the Member State, of legally binding provisions and for which the necessary funds have been specifically committed by 31 December 1999 at the latest. The deadline for the entry in the accounts of expenditure on such measures shall expire on 31 December 2001.

Article 7

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 15 December 1994.

For the Commission

René STEICHEN

Member of the Commission