COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 4 November 1999

concerning the grant of Community assistance for evaluation of Community structural interventions and modifying the relevant Commission Decision approving programming documents in the different Member States (with the exception of Objective 1 and 6 regions) in respect of Objective 5(a), covering the period between 1994 and 1999

(notified under document number C(1999) 3124)

(Only the Spanish, Danish, German, English, French, Italian, Dutch, Finnish and Swedish texts are authentic)

(1999/745/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3193/94 [2], and in particular the third subparagraph of Article 25(5) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 951/97 of 20 May 1997, on improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products [3] and in particular Article 15(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 867/90 [4] extends the common measure to forestry products;

(2) the Commission approved by Decisions referred to in the attached table (Annex I) the programming documents for Community structural interventions for improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural and forestry products in Member States in respect of Objective 5(a), outside Objective 1 and 6 regions, covering the period between 1994 and 1999;

(3) Article 6(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 in conjunction with Article 26 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 requires the evaluation of Community structural operations in order to gauge their effectiveness and whereas the latter Article sets out that evaluations are the joint responsibility of the Member State and the Commission; Article 5(2)(e) of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 defines support for technical assistance, including the measures to evaluate operations, as a form of financial assistance which may be provided;

(4) contrary to the other structural interventions, the initial programming of measures under Regulation (EC) No 951/97, outside of Objective 1 and 6 regions, did not foresee support for technical assistance; the requirement to carry out an ex-post evaluation of the previous period 1991 to 1993 as well as a mid-term and ex-post evaluation of the ongoing period 1994 to 1999 will cause additional costs to be borne by Member States;

(5) on the occasion of the discussion of the evaluation of measures under Regulation (EC) No 951/97 and Regulation (EEC) No 867/90 in the meeting of the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development of 28 January 1997, Member States requested the expenditure for evaluation to be co-financed by the Funds; the Commission considers this request justified;

(6) according to the second paragraph of Article 1 of Commission Decision 98/524/EC, of 28 July 1998, amending Decision 94/279/EC on the indicative allocation by Member States of the commitment

[1] OJ L 374, 31.12.1988, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 337, 24.12.1994, p. 11.
[3] OJ L 142, 2.6.1997, p. 22.
[4] OJ L 91, 6.4.1990, p. 7.

appropriations from the Structural Funds for the agricultural part of Objective 5a except for those fields covered by Objective 1 as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 [1] for the period 1994 to 1999, an amount of ECU 4 million from EAGGF (Guidance Section) was set aside to allow the support for technical assistance for the ex-post evaluation of the period 1991 to 1993, the mid-term review and the ex-post evaluation of the period 1994 to 1999 from commitment appropriations available for the agricultural part of Objective 5a except for those fields covered by Objective 1; this aforementioned Article established that the modalities of the support for evaluation shall be defined in a separate Commission decision; the present Decision intends to allocate the amount of EUR 4 million to the different programmes of Member States; the individual amounts to be allocated to Member States' programmes are calculated taking into account the weightings upon which the allocation of funds to Member States were based;

(7) evaluation activities on Community structural measures for improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural and forestry products which benefited from other Community financial assistance are not eligible for support under the present decision;

(8) the amounts subject to a distribution in the present decision form part of the indicative allocation by Member States of the commitment appropriations from the Structural Funds for the agricultural part of Objective 5a except for those fields covered by Objective 1 as defined in Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 for the period 1994 to 1999, the additional financial resources allocated to Member States but not used for evaluation purposes can be used by Member States to reinforce the operational actions in the relevant programmes;

(9) the second subparagraph 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 [2], as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2745/94 [3], 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 according to Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro [4], every reference to the ecu in a legal instrument shall be replaced by a reference to the euro at the rate of one euro to one ecu;

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

[1] OJ L 233, 20.8.1998, p. 32.
[2] OJ L 170, 3.7.1990, p. 36.
[3] OJ L 290, 11.11.1994, p. 4.
[4] OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Support from the EAGGF (Guidance Section) is granted in the form of technical assistance for the mid-term review and the ex-post evaluation for the period 1994 to 1999 relating to Community structural measures for improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural and forestry products in the Member States (with the exception of Objective 1 and 6 regions), in respect of Objective 5(a), as well as for the ex-post evaluation for the period 1991 to 1993, relating to the above-mentioned Community structural measures.

Article 2

Aid from the EAGGF may not exceed 50 % of the eligible cost of the different evaluation actions.

Eligible expenditure in respect of the evaluation actions referred to in Article 1 are limited to additional expenditure, other than costs incurred by public administration and including salaries of national and local (statutory) civil servants employed on day-to-day management, monitoring and control tasks.

Article 3

Article 2 of the Commission Decisions referred to in the attached table (Annex I) is modified by adding the following subparagraph:

'The ex-post evaluation of the period 1991 to 1993, the mid-term review and the ex-post evaluation of the period 1994 to 1999 are included for joint action.'

Article 4

The maximum amounts indicated in Article 3 of the Commission Decisions referred to in the attached table (Annex I) are replaced by the amounts indicated in column J of the same table.

In the context of the modification of the relevant financial plans, the assistance from the EAGGF (Guidance Section) granted in respect of the evaluation actions mentioned under Article 1 of the present Commission Decision is attributed as a separate item in total to the year 1999 and added to the indicative expenditure expected in regions outside Objectives 1, 6 and 5(b).

Article 5

The financial plans annexed to the Commission Decisions referred to in the attached table (Annex I) are replaced by revised plans which take account of the amendments subject to the present Decision. Member States shall submit to the Commission these revised plans at the latest one month after the approval of the present Decision.

Article 6

The additional point on evaluation, which is set out in Annex II to the present Decision, is included in the programming documents which were approved and amended by the Commission Decisions referred to in the attached table (Annex I).

Article 7

This Decision is addressed to the following Member States:

The Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 4 November 1999.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Single Programming Documents (SPD) and Community Support Framework (CSF) approved for regions outside Objective 1 and 6 that will be modified by the inclusion of EAGGF funds for evaluation

(Council Regulations (EEC) No 867/90 and (EC) No 951/97)

Member State	Type of programme/regions	Programme approved by Commission Decision		Programme last modified by Commission Decision		EAGGF contribution according to last modification	Additional EAGGF contribution for evaluation	Total amount from EAGGF allocated to the programme
		No	Date	No	Date	EUR	EUR	EUR
A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J = H + I
Belgique/België Total						42 577 974	265 000	42 842 974
of which:	SPD/Wallonie	95/104/CE	29 March 1995	C(1999)666	29 April 1999	5 483 484	34 000	5 517 484
	SPD/Vlaanderen	95/105/CE	29 March 1995	C(1999)8	29 January 1999	35 983 551	224 000	36 207 551
	SPD/Bruxelles Capitale	95/106/CE	29 March 1995			1 110 939	7 000	1 117 939
Danmark	SPD/whole country	94/832/CE	8 December 1994			26 700 000	130 000	26 830 000
Deutschland Total						278 119 274	700 000	278 819 274
of which:	SPD/Nordrhein-Westfahlen	94/890/CE	23 December 1994	C(1999)2217	11 October 1999	36 059 143	94 000	36 153 143
	SPD/Baden-Württenberg	94/891/CE	23 December 1994	C(1998)2599	19 October 1998	32 624 364	73 000	32 697 364
	SPD/Rheinland-Pfalz	94/892/CE	23 December 1994			18 764 000	50 000	18 814 000
	SPD/Niedersachsen	95/103/CE	29 March 1995	C(1999)2210	31 August 1999	40 631 834	80 000	40 711 834
	SPD/Bayern	95/200/CE	31 May 1995	C(1998)2598	19 October 1998	118 518 000	316 000	118 834 000
	SPD/Hessen	95/199/CE	31 May 1995	C(1999)2218	11 October 1999	21 196 375	57 000	21 253 375
	SPD/Hamburg	95/321/CE	25 July 1995	C(1999)2219	11 October 1999	3 017 630	12 000	3 029 630
	SPD/Bremen	95/256/CE	23 June 1995			670 000	2 000	672 000
	SPD/Schleswig-Holstein	95/258/CE	26 June 1995	C(1999)2220	11 October 1999	3 498 928	8 000	3 506 928
	SPD/Saarland	95/257/CE	23 June 1995			3 139 000	8 000	3 147 000

Member State	Type of programme/regions	Programme approved by Commission Decision		Programme last modified by Commission Decision		EAGGF contribution according to last modification	Additional EAGGF contribution for evaluation	Total amount from EAGGF allocated to the programme
		No	Date	No	Date	EUR	EUR	EUR
A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J = H + I
España	SPD/all non Objective 1	94/838/CE	19 December 1994	C(1999)2221	11 October 1999	291 435 983	540 000	291 975 983
France	SPD/all non Objective 1	95/102/CE	29 March 1995	C(1998)3475	10 December 1998	277 618 268	700 000	278 318 268
Italia	CSF/all non Objective 1	94/834/CE	15 December 1994	C(1999)1153	23 July 1999	201 122 136	580 000	201 702 136
Luxembourg	SPD/whole country	94/831/CE	8 December 1994	C(1997)142	6 March 1997	3 075 428	35 000	3 110 428
Nederland	SPD/all non Objective 1	94/835/CE	15 December 1994	C(1998)2593	23 October 1998	60 527 105	260 000	60 787 105
Österreich	SPD/all non Objective 1	96/11/CE	15 December 1995	C(1999)1150	20 July 1999	105 422 109	210 000	105 632 109
Suomi/Finland	SPD/all non Objective 6	95/494/CE	17 November 1995	C(1999)272	11 March 1999	29 800 000	130 000	29 930 000
Sverige	SPD/all non Objective 6	96/229/CE	11 March 1996	C(1999)7	20 January 1999	27 000 000	130 000	27 130 000
United Kingdom	SPD/all non Objective 1	94/836/CE	15 December 1994	96/388/CE	17 June 1996	51 183 000	320 000	51 503 000
TOTAL						1 394 581 277	4 000 000	1 398 581 277

ANNEX II

EVALUATION

— *Period covered*

Evaluation operations covered by this programming document will cover:

— the ex-post evaluation of the 1991 to 1993 programming period;

— the mid-term evaluation after the third year of implementation of the present programme and

— the ex-post evaluation of the present programming period.

— *Guidelines for evaluation*

Apart from the conditions established in the present programme under the chapter on its implementation, namely in the point concerning principles and arrangements governing the monitoring, interim assessment and ex-post evaluation, Member States are required to base their evaluation on the guidelines set out in Commission Doc. VI/3778/97, Rev.1 and on probable future improvements of these guidelines (see Doc. VI/8879/99).