

Official Journal

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(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 July 2000

approving the Community Support Framework for Community structural assistance in the Border, Midland and Western region under Objective 1 and the Southern and Eastern region qualifying for transitional support under Objective 1 in Ireland

(notified under document number C(2000) 1783)

(Only the English text is authentic)

(2002/502/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(4) thereof,

After consultation of the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty, the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development and the Committee on Structures for Fisheries and Aquaculture,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Community Support Frameworks.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State is to submit a development plan to the Commission containing the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plans submitted by the Member States and within the

partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission shall take a decision on Community Support Frameworks for Community structural assistance in agreement with the Member State concerned.

- (4) The Irish Government submitted to the Commission on 15 November 1999 a valid development plan for the Border, Midland and Western region fulfilling the conditions for Objective 1 pursuant to Article 3(1) and the Southern and Eastern region qualifying for transitional support under Objective 1 pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. The plan contains the information listed in Article 16 of that Regulation, and in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), the Cohesion Fund, and the other financial instruments proposed for implementing the plan.
- (5) The Community Support Framework has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership framework.
- (6) The Commission has satisfied itself that the present Community Support Framework is in accordance with the principle of additionality.
- (7) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.

- (8) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Community Support Framework in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.
- (9) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown must be expressed in euro. The annual breakdown must be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (10) Provision must be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Community Support Framework within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Community Support Framework for Community structural assistance in the Border, Midland and Western (BMW) region under Objective 1 and the Southern and Eastern (S & E) region benefiting from transitional support under Objective 1 in Ireland for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community Support Framework includes the following elements:

- (a) A statement of the priorities for the joint action of Community Structural Funds and the Member State, their specific quantified targets, the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of Ireland.

The priorities are as follows:

1. Development of economic infrastructure;
2. Employment and human resource development;
3. Productive sector investment;

4. Balanced regional development (BMW and SE regions);
5. Rural development;
6. Social inclusion

In addition to the above priorities, there will be separate operational programmes for PEACE and technical assistance;

- (b) an overview of the operational programmes to be implemented, including their specific aims and the priorities selected;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying, for each priority and each year, the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution of each Fund, the EIB where appropriate, and the other financial instruments, and the amount of eligible public or equivalent and estimated private funding from Ireland. The financing plan shall indicate separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objective 1.

The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Community Support Framework is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;

- (d) the provisions for implementing the Community Support Framework including the designation of the managing authority and the provision made for involvement of the partners in the Monitoring Committees;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of additionality and information concerning the transparency of financial flows;
- (f) information on the appropriations required for preparing, monitoring and evaluating the Community Support Framework and the operational programmes.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 5 442 million for the whole period and the financial allocation from the Structural Funds at EUR 3 172 million.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 2 270 million from the public sector and EUR 1 560 million from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

The indicative initial estimated breakdown of the total Community assistance available between the Structural Funds is as follows:

ERDF	EUR 1 862 913 000,
ESF	EUR 1 056 587 000,
EAGGF, Guidance section	EUR 182 000 000,
FIFG	EUR 70 500 000.

In addition to the contribution from the Structural Funds, assistance from the Cohesion Fund will amount to EUR 567 million for the period 2000 to 2006.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

3. During implementation of the financing plan, the total cost or Community financing of a given priority can be adjusted in agreement with the Member State by up to 25 % of the total Community contribution to the Single Programming Document throughout the programme period or by up to EUR 60 million, whichever is the greater, without altering the total Community contribution referred to in paragraph 1.

Done at Brussels, 28 July 2000.

For the Commission

Michel BARNIER

Member of the Commission

COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 December 2000

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Nord/Pas-de-Calais in France qualifying for transitional support under Objective 1

*(notified under document number C(2000) 2577 COR)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/503/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 31 December 1999 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Nord/Pas-de-Calais qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 1 pursuant to Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. The plan includes the

information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guidance Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.
- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Nord/Pas-de-Calais in France qualifying for transitional support under Objective 1 for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. continuing to boost economic activity;
2. training, solidarity and employment;

3. improving and utilising the area;
4. technical assistance;

- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, indicating separately the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows;
- (f) information on the appropriations required for preparing, monitoring and evaluating the assistance.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 118 302 007 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 389 000 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 470 602 006 from the public sector and EUR 258 700 001 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

Article 3

1. The total assistance from the Structural Funds granted under the Single Programming Document amounts to EUR 389 000 000.

The procedure for granting the financial assistance, including the financial contribution from the Funds for the various priorities included in the Single Programming Document, is set out in the financing plan annexed to this Decision.

2. The indicative initial estimated breakdown among the Structural Funds of the total Community assistance available is as follows:

ERDF	EUR 252 944 000,
ESF	EUR 97 262 000,
EAGGF, Guidance Section	EUR 38 794 000.

3. During implementation of the financing plan, the total cost or Community financing of a given priority may be adjusted in agreement with the Member State by up to 25 % of the total Community contribution to the Single Programming Document throughout the programme period, up to a maximum of EUR 60 million, without altering the total Community contribution referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 4

This Decision is without prejudice to the Commission's position on aid schemes falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty that are included in this assistance and which it has not yet approved. Submission of the application for assistance, the programme complement or a request for payment by the Member State does not replace the notification required by Article 88(3) of the Treaty.

Community financing of State aid falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, requires prior approval by the Commission under Article 88 of the Treaty, except where the aid falls under the *de minimis* rule or is exempted under an exemption regulation adopted by the Commission under Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98 on the application of Articles 92 and 93 to certain categories of

horizontal State aid ⁽³⁾. In the absence of such exemption or approval, aid is illegal and subject to the consequences set out in the procedural regulation for State aid, and its part-financing would be treated as an irregularity within the meaning of Articles 38 and 39 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Consequently, the Commission will not accept requests for interim and final payments under Article 32 of the Regulation for measures being part-financed with new or altered aid, as defined in the procedural regulation for State aid, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, until such aid has been notified to and formally approved by the Commission.

By way of derogation from the preceding paragraphs, Articles 51 and 52 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 shall apply in the context of rural development part financed by the EAGGF.

Article 5

The date from which expenditure shall be eligible is 31 December 1999. The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure shall be 31 December 2008. This date is extended to 30 April 2009 for expenditure incurred by bodies granting assistance under Article 9(l) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 20 December 2000.

For the Commission

Michel BARNIER

Member of the Commission

⁽³⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 21 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Champagne-Ardenne in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 555)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/504/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Champagne-Ardenne fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No

1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.
- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,
- consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.
- The priorities are as follows:
1. preparing the area to accommodate new businesses;
 2. encouraging the creation of activity and wealth;
 3. structuring urban and rural areas;
 4. agricultural and rural development;
 5. protecting the environment and preventing natural disasters;
 6. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Champagne-Ardenne in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the

- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;

- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 676 964 796 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 207 698 988 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 12 173 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 356 988 250 from the public sector and EUR 100 104 558

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 21 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Nord/Pas-de-Calais in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 556)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/505/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Nord/Pas-de-Calais fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objective 2 pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

The priorities are as follows:

1. promoting economic development for job-creation;
 2. establishing a basis for economic and social cohesion;
 3. promoting territorial approaches to sustainable and mutually supportive development;
 4. diversifying agriculture around cities by creating synergies with urban areas;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objective 2 and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Nord/Pas-de-Calais in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objective 2 for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 879 900 196 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 607 402 252 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 833 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 830 849 355 from the public sector and EUR 440 815 589 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Ile-de-France in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 563)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/506/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions and the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Ile-de-France fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1). The plan also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and

an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (7) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.
- (8) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (9) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (10) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.

- (11) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Ile-de-France in France eligible under Objective 2 for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. local cooperation, empowering local areas;
2. making the whole Objective 2 area more attractive to businesses and people;
3. supporting, improving and expanding the economic fabric and employment;
4. technical assistance, information and publicity;

- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;

- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, indicating separately the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total

contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;

- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;

- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 414 817 158 for the whole period and the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 142 315 579.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 147 415 579 from the public sector and EUR 125 086 000 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

Article 3

1. The total assistance from the Structural Funds granted under the Single Programming Document amounts to EUR 142 315 579.

The procedure for granting the financial assistance, including the financial contribution from the Funds for the various priorities included in the Single Programming Document, is set out in the financing plan annexed to this Decision.

2. The indicative initial estimated breakdown among the Structural Funds of the total Community assistance available is as follows:

ERDF	EUR 119 588 413,
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ESF	EUR 22 727 166.
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3. During implementation of the financing plan, the total cost or Community financing of a given priority may be adjusted in agreement with the Member State by up to 25 % of the total Community contribution to the Single Programming Document throughout the programme period, up to a maximum of EUR 30 million, without altering the total Community contribution referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 4

This Decision is without prejudice to the Commission's position on aid schemes falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty that are included in this assistance and which it has not yet approved. Submission of the application for assistance, the programme complement or a request for payment by the Member State does not replace the notification required by Article 88(3) of the Treaty.

Community financing of State aid falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, requires prior approval by the Commission under Article 88 of the Treaty, except where the aid falls under the *de minimis* rule or is exempted under an exemption regulation adopted by the Commission under Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98 on the application of Articles 92 and 93 to certain categories of horizontal State aid ⁽²⁾. In the absence of such exemption or approval, aid is illegal and subject to the consequences set out in the procedural regulation for State aid, and its part-financing would be treated as an irregularity within the meaning of Articles 38 and 39 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Consequently, the Commission will not accept requests for interim and final payments under Article 32 of the Regulation

for measures being part financed with new or altered aid, as defined in the procedural regulation for State aid, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, until such aid has been notified to and formally approved by the Commission.

Article 5

The date from which expenditure shall be eligible is 1 January 2000.

The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure shall be 31 December 2008. This date is extended to 30 April 2009 for expenditure incurred by bodies granting assistance under Article 9(l) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 22 March 2001.

For the Commission

Michel BARNIER

Member of the Commission

⁽²⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Lorraine in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 628)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/507/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 17 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Lorraine fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

The priorities are as follows:

1. developing activities which will expand employment;
 2. sustainable territorial improvements;
 3. supporting territorial dynamics and promoting social cohesion;
 4. rural development;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Lorraine in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 918 358 059 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 380 338 597 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 31 290 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 411 628 597 from the public sector and EUR 95 100 865 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

3. The rate of part-financing by the EAGGF Guarantee Section for each rural development measure is given in the Single Programming Document. The rate of part-financing by the EAGGF at the level of the sub-measure or action is given in the programme complement provided for in Article 19(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and shall be valid for at least one financial year.

Article 3

1. The total assistance from the Structural Funds granted under the Single Programming Document amounts to EUR 380 338 597, to which the EAGGF Guarantee Section will contribute a further EUR 31 290 000.

The procedure for granting the financial assistance, including the financial contribution from the Funds for the various priorities included in the Single Programming Document, is set out in the financing plan annexed to this Decision.

2. The indicative initial estimated breakdown among the Structural Funds of the total Community assistance available is as follows:

ERDF EUR 336 280 832,

ESF EUR 44 057 765.

3. During implementation of the financing plan, the total cost or Community financing of a given priority may be adjusted in agreement with the Member State by up to 25 % of the total Community contribution to the Single Programming Document throughout the programme period, up to a maximum of EUR 30 million, without altering the total Community contribution referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 4

This Decision is without prejudice to the Commission's position on aid schemes falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty that are included in this assistance and which it has not yet approved. Submission of the application for assistance, the programme complement or a request for payment by the Member State does not replace the notification required by Article 88(3) of the Treaty.

Community financing of State aid falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, requires prior approval by the Commission under Article 88 of

the Treaty, except where the aid falls under the *de minimis* rule or is exempted under an exemption regulation adopted by the Commission under Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98 on the application of Articles 92 and 93 to certain categories of horizontal State aid ⁽⁴⁾. In the absence of such exemption or approval, aid is illegal and subject to the consequences set out in the procedural regulation for State aid, and its part-financing would be treated as an irregularity within the meaning of Articles 38 and 39 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Consequently, the Commission will not accept requests for interim and final payments under Article 32 of the Regulation for measures being part-financed with new or altered aid, as defined in the procedural regulation for State aid, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, until such aid has been notified to and formally approved by the Commission.

By way of derogation from the preceding paragraphs, Articles 51 and 52 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 shall apply in the context of rural development part financed by the EAGGF.

Article 5

The date from which expenditure shall be eligible is 1 January 2000 for the Structural Funds and 17 April 2000 for the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure shall be 31 December 2008. This date is extended to 30 April 2009 for expenditure incurred by bodies granting assistance under Article 9(l) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure in the area receiving transitional support shall be 31 December 2007.

The final date for the EAGGF Guarantee Section to take account of payments made by the paying bodies under this programming document shall be 31 December 2006.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 22 March 2001.

For the Commission

Michel BARNIER

Member of the Commission

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Limousin in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 630)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/508/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 17 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Limousin fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objective 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of

17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Limousin in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objective 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. improving the underlying conditions for regional development;
 2. making firms more competitive and encouraging the creation of activity and employment;
 3. facilitating spatial development and promoting local cooperation;
 4. technical assistance;
 5. supporting the expansion of agricultural and rural activities;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objective 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 760 627 038 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 137 560 365 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 47 689 000 EUR.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 299 394 776 from the public sector and EUR 275 982 897 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Aquitaine in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 631)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/509/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Aquitaine fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of

Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

The priorities are as follows:

1. promoting employment through support for the establishment and development of firms;
 2. making the region more competitive;
 3. making the area more dynamic and improving living conditions;
 4. better use of rural resources;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Aquitaine in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 2 297 277 717 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 452 855 666 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 82 264 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 893 839 611 from the public sector and EUR 868 318 440 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Midi-Pyrénées in France

(notified under document number C(2001) 632)

(Only the French text is authentic)

(2002/510/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Midi-Pyrénées fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Midi-Pyrénées in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. structuring the region to promote economic activity;
 2. promoting project areas;
 3. introducing and developing activities by exploiting resources within a high-quality area;
 4. supporting rural development;
 5. implementing measures to support the development of mountain areas;
 6. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 815 603 247 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 404 765 608 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 91 572 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 898 608 952 from the public sector and EUR 420 656 687 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Languedoc-Roussillon in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 633)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/511/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Languedoc-Roussillon fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural

Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

The priorities are as follows:

1. encouraging the creation of activity and employment;
 2. strengthening economic and social cohesion by promoting spatial balance;
 3. ensuring spatial balance by dealing with the specific problems of different kinds of area;
 4. rural development;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Languedoc-Roussillon in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 118 697 560 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 270 267 559 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 45 731 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 420 691 999 from the public sector and EUR 382 007 002 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

3. The rate of part financing by the EAGGF Guarantee Section for each rural development measure is given in the Single Programming Document. The rate of part-financing by the EAGGF at the level of the sub-measure or action is given in the programme complement provided for in Article 19(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and shall be valid for at least one financial year.

Article 3

1. The total assistance from the Structural Funds granted under the Single Programming Document amounts to EUR 270 267 559, to which the EAGGF Guarantee Section will contribute a further EUR 45 731 000.

The procedure for granting the financial assistance, including the financial contribution from the Funds for the various priorities included in the Single Programming Document, is set out in the financing plan annexed to this Decision.

2. The indicative initial estimated breakdown among the Structural Funds of the total Community assistance available is as follows:

ERDF 239 981 720 EUR,

ESF 30 285 839 EUR.

3. During implementation of the financing plan, the total cost or Community financing of a given priority may be adjusted in agreement with the Member State by up to 25 % of the total Community contribution to the Single Programming Document throughout the programme period, up to a maximum of EUR 30 million, without altering the total Community contribution referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 4

This Decision is without prejudice to the Commission's position on aid schemes falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty that are included in this assistance and which it has not yet approved. Submission of the application for assistance, the programme complement or a request for payment by the Member State does not replace the notification required by Article 88(3) of the Treaty.

Community financing of State aid falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, requires prior approval by the Commission under Article 88 of the Treaty, except where the aid falls under the *de minimis* rule

or is exempted under an exemption regulation adopted by the Commission under Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98 on the application of Articles 92 and 93 to certain categories of horizontal State aid ⁽⁴⁾. In the absence of such exemption or approval, aid is illegal and subject to the consequences set out in the procedural regulation for State aid, and its part-financing would be treated as an irregularity within the meaning of Articles 38 and 39 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Consequently, the Commission will not accept requests for interim and final payments under Article 32 of the Regulation for measures being part-financed with new or altered aid, as defined in the procedural regulation for State aid, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, until such aid has been notified to and formally approved by the Commission.

By way of derogation from the preceding paragraphs, Articles 51 and 52 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 shall apply in the context of rural development part financed by the EAGGF.

Article 5

The date from which expenditure shall be eligible is 1 January 2000 for the Structural Funds and 28 April 2000 for the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure shall be 31 December 2008 for the Structural Funds. This date is extended to 30 April 2009 for expenditure incurred by bodies granting assistance under Article 9(l) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure in the area receiving transitional support shall be 31 December 2007.

The final date for the EAGGF Guarantee Section to take account of payments made by the paying bodies under this programming document shall be 31 December 2006.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 22 March 2001.

For the Commission

Michel BARNIER

Member of the Commission

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION**of 22 March 2001****approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under
Objective 2 in the region of Lower Normandy in France***(notified under document number C(2001) 634)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/512/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 17 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Lower Normandy fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.
- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Lower Normandy in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. encouraging economic development to promote growth and employment;
 2. spatial planning to make the region more competitive;
 3. improving the quality of life and increasing solidarity to achieve balanced social and spatial cohesion;
 4. regional rural development plan;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 090 961 858 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 265 327 344 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 40 320 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 543 859 870 from the public sector and EUR 241 454 644 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Poitou-Charentes in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 639)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/513/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 17 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Poitou-Charentes fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999

of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

The priorities are as follows:

1. supporting the development of firms;
 2. supporting and developing strategic sectors;
 3. making the area more attractive and more cohesive;
 4. EAGGF Guarantee Section;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Poitou-Charentes in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 058 244 814 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 265 646 737 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 45 999 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 475 027 455 from the public sector and EUR 271 571 622 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the Loire Region in France

(notified under document number C(2001) 640)

(Only the French text is authentic)

(2002/514/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the Loire Region fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the Loire Region in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. the sustainable development of multi-functional high-quality agriculture;
 2. making the area more attractive through environmental improvements;
 3. improved infrastructure to promote job creation;
 4. more competitive industrial, commercial, craft and service firms;
 5. promoting equal opportunities through training and job placement;
 6. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 871 306 388 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 401 290 176 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 39 438 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 960 110 284 from the public sector and EUR 470 467 928 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

3. The rate of part-financing by the EAGGF Guarantee Section for each rural development measure is given in the Single Programming Document. The rate of part-financing by the EAGGF at the level of the sub-measure or action is given in the programme complement provided for in Article 19(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and shall be valid for at least one financial year.

Article 3

1. The total assistance from the Structural Funds granted under the Single Programming Document amounts to EUR 401 290 176, to which the EAGGF Guarantee Section will contribute a further EUR 39 438 000.

The procedure for granting the financial assistance, including the financial contribution from the Funds for the various priorities included in the Single Programming Document, is set out in the financing plan annexed to this Decision.

2. The indicative initial estimated breakdown among the Structural Funds of the total Community assistance available is as follows:

ERDF	EUR 350 601 468,
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ESF	EUR 50 688 708.
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3. During implementation of the financing plan, the total cost or Community financing of a given priority may be adjusted in agreement with the Member State by up to 25 % of the total Community contribution to the Single Programming Document throughout the programme period, up to a maximum of EUR 30 million, without altering the total Community contribution referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 4

This Decision is without prejudice to the Commission's position on aid schemes falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty that are included in this assistance and which it has not yet approved. Submission of the application for assistance, the programme complement or a request for payment by the Member State does not replace the notification required by Article 88(3) of the Treaty.

Community financing of State aid falling within Article 87(1) of the Treaty, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, requires prior approval by the Commission under Article 88 of the Treaty, except where the aid falls under the *de minimis* rule or is exempted under an exemption regulation adopted by the

Commission under Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98 on the application of Articles 92 and 93 to certain categories of horizontal State aid ⁽⁴⁾. In the absence of such exemption or approval, aid is illegal and subject to the consequences set out in the procedural regulation for State aid, and its part-financing would be treated as an irregularity within the meaning of Articles 38 and 39 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

Consequently, the Commission will not accept requests for interim and final payments under Article 32 of the Regulation for measures being part-financed with new or altered aid, as defined in the procedural regulation for State aid, granted under aid schemes or in individual cases, until such aid has been notified to and formally approved by the Commission.

By way of derogation from the preceding paragraphs, Articles 51 and 52 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 shall apply in the context of rural development part financed by the EAGGF.

Article 5

The date from which expenditure shall be eligible is 1 January 2000 for the Structural Funds and 28 April 2000 for the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure shall be 31 December 2008 for the Structural Funds. This date is extended to 30 April 2009 for expenditure incurred by bodies granting assistance under Article 9(l) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure in the area receiving transitional support shall be 31 December 2007.

The final date for the EAGGF Guarantee Section to take account of payments made by the paying bodies under this programming document shall be 31 December 2006.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 22 March 2001.

For the Commission

Michel BARNIER

Member of the Commission

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the Centre region in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 645)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/515/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 20 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the Centre region fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds; in the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

The priorities are as follows:

1. supporting the conversion of economic activity and greater competitiveness;
 2. making the area more attractive;
 3. promoting the conditions for high-quality cooperative development;
 4. promoting rural development;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the Centre region in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 732 646 451 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 199 252 553 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 27 727 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 356 454 906 from the public sector and EUR 149 212 002 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Burgundy in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 646)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/516/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

(1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.

(2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.

(3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.

(4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 20 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Burgundy fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support

under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

(5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.

(6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.

(7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.
- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,
- consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.
- The priorities are as follows:
1. strengthening the economic fabric to permit sustainable development;
 2. supporting growth and economic development through appropriate management of human resources;
 3. offsetting the disadvantages of urban areas in difficulty;
 4. revitalising rural areas;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Burgundy in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the

- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 868 653 504 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 233 671 548 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 45 677 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 280 131 756 from the public sector and EUR 309 173 200 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Brittany in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 647)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/517/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Brittany fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

(9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.

(10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.

(11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.

(12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

The priorities are as follows:

1. developing and adjusting the skills of men and women;
2. creating a balanced and attractive area;
3. making firms more dynamic and adjusting the regional economy to global conditions;
4. the regional rural development plan;
5. technical assistance;

(b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;

(c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;

(d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;

(e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Brittany in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

(a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 390 260 522 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 403 635 264 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 56 707 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 578 569 261 from the public sector and EUR 351 348 997 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 648)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/518/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No

1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999 p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. supporting structural projects to raise the area's profile;
 2. encouraging the development of job-creating businesses;
 3. ensuring social and spatial cohesion;
 4. promoting environmentally-friendly development;
 5. supporting regional rural development;
 6. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the state aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 338 104 089 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 307 424 718 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 32 490 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 549 490 371 from the public sector and EUR 448 699 000 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Picardy in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 649)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/519/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 20 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Picardy fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objective 2 pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Picardy in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objective 2 for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. eligible urban areas on the Oise;
 2. training, placement and equal opportunities;
 3. economic and cultural development;
 4. the environment;
 5. increasing inter-area cooperation on structural collective projects;
 6. technical assistance;
 7. rural development;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 138 732 552 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 254 289 450 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 4 573 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 348 738 762 from the public sector and EUR 531 131 340 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Upper Normandy in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 651)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/520/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Upper Normandy fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by

Article 40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Upper Normandy in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. diversifying economic activity and improving skills to promote employment;
 2. improving ports and logistics;
 3. sustainable urban development;
 4. improvement and protection of the environment;
 5. helping implement the programme;
 6. assisting agriculture;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 988 771 633 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 307 335 416 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 5 531 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 491 909 656 from the public sector and EUR 183 995 561 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

(⁴) OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 26 March 2001

approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 in the region of Rhône-Alpes in France*(notified under document number C(2001) 656)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/521/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions, the Committee pursuant to Article 147 of the Treaty and the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 28 April 2000 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for the region of Rhône-Alpes fulfilling the conditions for Objective 2 pursuant to Article 4(1) and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. As permitted by Article

40(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) ⁽²⁾, the draft includes rural development measures other than those referred to in Article 35(1) of the Regulation. It also includes the information listed in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section.

- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 52(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, as an acceptable plan was submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2000 the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible is 1 January 2000 in the case of the Structural Funds. In the case of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2603/1999 ⁽³⁾ provides that the expenditure is eligible only if it has actually been paid to the beneficiary after the date of submission of the programme. Under Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The rural development measures to be financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are governed, in particular as regards their compatibility and consistency with common agricultural policy measures, by Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999.
- (7) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (8) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 316, 10.12.1999, p. 26.

- (9) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (10) The EIB has been involved in drawing up the Single Programming Document in accordance with the provisions of Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and has declared itself prepared to contribute to its implementation in conformity with its statutory provisions.
- (11) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (12) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance in the region of Rhône-Alpes in France eligible under Objective 2 and qualifying for transitional support under Objectives 2 and 5(b) for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

1. supporting local development and innovation;
 2. improving the environment for those engaged in economic activity and raising living standards for residents;
 3. making those engaged in economic activity more dynamic;
 4. supporting rural development;
 5. technical assistance;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
- (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from each Fund and the other financial instruments, including the total amount from the EAGGF Guarantee Section and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support in respect of Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
- (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;
- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 1 583 835 403 for the whole period, the financial contribution from the Structural Funds at EUR 409 141 474 and that from the EAGGF Guarantee Section at EUR 56 449 000.

The resulting requirement for national resources of EUR 710 530 773 from the public sector and EUR 407 714 156 from the private sector can be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank and other lending instruments.

3. The rate of part-financing by the EAGGF Guarantee Section for each rural development measure is given in the Single Programming Document. The rate of part-financing by

COMMISSION DECISION**of 20 November 2001****approving the Single Programming Document for Community structural assistance under Objective 2 to technical assistance in France***(notified under document number C(2001) 2842/2)***(Only the French text is authentic)**

(2002/522/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(5) thereof,

After consulting the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 13 et seq. of Title II of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 lay down the procedure for preparing and implementing Single Programming Documents.
- (2) Article 15(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 provides that, after consultation with the partners referred to in Article 8 of the Regulation, the Member State may submit to the Commission a development plan which is treated as a draft Single Programming Document, and which contains the information referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation.
- (3) Under Article 15(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, on the basis of the regional development plan submitted by the Member State and within the partnership established in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation, the Commission is to take a decision on the Single Programming Document, in agreement with the Member State concerned and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 48 to 51.
- (4) The French Government submitted to the Commission on 9 April 2001 an acceptable draft Single Programming Document for technical assistance fulfilling the conditions for Objectives 1 and 2 pursuant to Articles 3(1) and 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999. The draft contains the information listed in Article 16 of the Regulation, and in particular a description of the priorities selected and an indication of the financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- (5) The date of submission of the draft which was considered acceptable by the Commission constitutes the date from which expenditure under the plan is eligible. Under Article 30 of the Regulation, it is necessary to lay down the final date for the eligibility of expenditure.
- (6) The Single Programming Document has been drawn up in agreement with the Member State concerned and within the partnership.
- (7) The Commission has satisfied itself that the Single Programming Document is in accordance with the principle of additionality.
- (8) Under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Commission and the Member State are required to ensure, in a manner consistent with the principle of partnership, coordination between assistance from the Funds and from the EIB and other existing financial instruments.
- (9) The financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown should be consistent with the relevant financial perspective. Under Article 7(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Community contribution has already been indexed at a rate of 2 % per year. Under Article 7(7) and Article 44(2) of the Regulation, the Community contribution may be reviewed at mid-term, and not later than 31 March 2004, to take account of the effective level of inflation and the allocation of the performance reserve.
- (10) Provision should be made for adapting the financial allocations of the priorities of this Single Programming Document within certain limits to actual requirements reflected by the pattern of implementation on the ground, in agreement with the Member State concerned,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Single Programming Document for technical assistance under Objective 2 in France for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the Single Programming Document includes the following elements:

- (a) the strategy and priorities for the joint action of the Structural Funds and the Member State; their specific quantified targets; the *ex ante* evaluation of the expected impact, including on the environmental situation, and the consistency of the priorities with the economic, social and regional policies and the employment strategy of France.

The priorities are as follows:

- 1. expanding capacity to manage, monitor, check and evaluate programmes;
 - 2. promoting exchanges of experience and networking;
 - 3. promoting national and Community priorities;
 - 4. monitoring, promotion and coordination;
- (b) a summary description of the measures planned to implement the priorities, including the information needed to check compliance with the State aid rules under Article 87 of the Treaty;
 - (c) the indicative financing plan specifying for each priority and each year the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution from the European Regional Development Fund and indicating separately the funding planned for the regions receiving transitional support and the total amounts of eligible public or equivalent expenditure and estimated private funding in the Member State. The total contribution from the Funds planned for each year for the Single Programming Document is consistent with the relevant financial perspective;
 - (d) the provisions for implementing the Single Programming Document including designation of the managing authority, a description of the arrangements for managing the Single Programming Document and the use to be made of global grants, a description of the systems for

monitoring and evaluation, including the role of the Monitoring Committee and the arrangements for the participation of the partners in that Committee;

- (e) the *ex ante* verification of compliance with additionality and information on the transparency of financial flows.

2. The indicative financing plan puts the total cost of the priorities selected for the joint action by the Community and the Member State at EUR 22 000 000 for the whole period and the financial contribution from the ERDF at EUR 11 000 000.

Article 3

1. The total assistance from the Structural Funds granted under the Single Programming Document amounts to EUR 11 000 000. The procedure for granting the financial assistance, including the financial contribution from the Funds for the various priorities included in the Single Programming Document, is set out in the financing plan annexed to this Decision.

2. During implementation of the financing plan, the total cost or Community financing of a given priority may be adjusted in agreement with the Member State by up to 25 % of the total Community contribution to the Single Programming Document throughout the programme period, up to a maximum of EUR 30 million, without altering the total Community contribution referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 4

The date from which expenditure shall be eligible is 9 April 2001. The closing date for the eligibility of expenditure shall be 31 December 2008.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 20 November 2001.

For the Commission

Michel BARNIER

Member of the Commission