Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIFG, structural measures

1998/0116(CNS) - 06/04/1999 - Supplementary legislative basic document

Echoing the outcome of the Berlin Summit (23/03/99) and the overall agreement reached by the fifteen on Agenda 2000, this text constitutes the consolidated version by the Council revising the provisions in relation to the financial instrument for fisheries guidance or FIFG funds for the period 2000-2006. Essentially, this text assumes the general structure proposed by the Commission in March 1998 in its initial proposal. Notably, it reintroduces the principal of a double framework for the FIFG: the Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy. However, the Council strictly limits actions to Objective 1 regions (the FIFG therefore is therefore no longer allowed, as in the initial proposal, to intervene in Objective 2 regions). At the same time, will be able to intervene outside Objective 1, by means of a Single Programming Document for each Member State. Measures which may be financed under the FIFG will be all structural actions relating to: - fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels; - adjustment of fishing effort; - joint enterprises; - small-scale coastal fishing; - socio-economic measures; - protection of marine resources in coastal waters; - aquaculture; - fishing port facilities; - processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products; - measures to find and promote market outlets; - operations by members of the trade; - temporary cessation of activities and other financial compensation; - innovative actions and technical assistance; - other actions to be decided by the Council according to specific provisions. Beyond these actions, the Council re-assumes the Commission's proposal to finance through FIFG measures of a transnational nature and the establishment of networks for operators in the fisheries sector, as well as technical assistance measures. It is also specified that financial participation granted to each individual operation may not exceed a maximum amount to be decided by the Council on a proposal from the Commission. Finally, the Council specifies that those not already used for the financial programming period, 1989-1993 will be released and must be refunded. It should be noted that the Berlin summit fixed the amount for the FIFG from 2000 to 2006 at EURO 1,100 million for all interventions outside Objective 1 (of which EURO 875 million is attributable to budget heading 1 - agriculture).