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

1998/0116(CNS) - 21/06/1999 - Final act

PURPOSE: Recasting of the Regulation on the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) for the 2000-2006 period. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 1263/1999/EC on the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance. CONTENT: The Regulation defines the objectives of the FIFG and it formalises the double linkage of the FIFG to the Structural policy established by Council Regulation 1260 /99/EC laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (General Regulation : AVC980090), and to the common fisheries policy provided for in Council Regulation 3760/92/EEC establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture. As in the previous programming period (1994-99), the aim of the FIFG is to support structural measurs in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and industry processing and marketing of their products in order to promote the restructuring of the sector by creating favourable conditions for its development and modernisation, while at the same time contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the common fisheries policy. - Scope: the Regulation strictly limits FIFG financing. It is mainly focused on actions in Obj. 1 regions (FIFG does not finance activities in all Obj. 2 regions). However, the FIFG can intervene outside an Obj. 1 region via a single programming document for each Member State. Structural measures that are eligible for funding are as follows: - fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels: such assistance must be compatible with fisheries multiannual guidance programmes; - adjustment of fishing capacities; - small-scale coastal fisheries; - socio-economic measures; - protection of marine resources; - aquaculture; - fishing port facilities; - processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products; - finding new market outlets; - innovative actions, in particular those of a transnational nature and involving the networking of operators and areas dependent on the sector. Where such actions are financed exclusively by the FIFG, its scope of application may be extended to measures which would normally be covered by other Structural Funds; - technical assistance. It is also specifically stated that the Council acting on a proposal from the Commission and following consultation with the European Parliament, will adopt the detailed rules and conditions for FIFG financial assistance not later than 31 December 1999. Any modification to the list of eligible measures will have to follow the same procedure. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29.06.1999.