II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 6 February 1979

on the programme for the acceleration and guidance of collective irrigation works in Corsica

(79/173/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Whereas Article 39 (2) (a) of the Treaty provides that, in working out the common agricultural policy, account should be taken of the social structure of agriculture and the structural and natural disparities between the various agricultural regions;

Whereas, in order to achieve the objectives of the common agricultural policy set out in Article 39 (1) (a) and (b), special measures appropriate to the production conditions in the least-favoured agricultural areas should be adopted at Community level;

Whereas certain Mediterranean regions of the Community are in an unfavourable situation as regards agricultural incomes and suffer from under-employment not only in agriculture but also generally;

Whereas these problems are particularly evident in Corsica;

Whereas the active agricultural population forms a considerable proportion of the total active population in this region;

Whereas action should be concentrated on basic aspects of the structural development of these regions which will have rapid and lasting effects on agricultural incomes;

Whereas agricultural production in Corsica is seriously affected by a severely unbalanced water-supply situation; whereas the capacity of the existing reservoirs and main channels is much greater than that of the irrigation networks;

Whereas the provision of such irrigation networks must be speeded up by means of Community aid;

Whereas the conditions and limits laid down in Articles 13 and 19 of Council Directive 72/159/EEC of 17 April 1972 on the modernization of farms (3) are not well suited, as regards irrigation, to the special structural situation in Corsica;

Whereas the opportunity should be taken to reorientate agricultural production in the areas concerned in these regions;

Whereas these objectives should be pursued by means of a measure covering certain areas concerned in Corsica within the framework of a programme extending over several years;

Whereas it follows from the foregoing that the measures referred to above constitute a common

(1) OJ No C 200, 22. 8. 1978, p. 3.
(2) OJ No C 239, 9. 10. 1978, p. 61.
(3) OJ No L 96, 23. 4. 1972, p. 1.