COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 19 June 1978

on a programme to accelerate drainage operations in the less-favoured areas of the west of Ireland

(78/628/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,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2),

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

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

Whereas certain regions in the west of Ireland are in an unfavourable situation as regards agricultural incomes and suffer from under-employment both in agriculture and in other sectors;

Whereas the percentage of the total working population engaged in agriculture in these regions is particularly high;

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

Whereas agricultural production in the west of Ireland is seriously handicapped by drainage problems owing both to the lack of arterial drainage and to the scarcity of field drainage;

Whereas Community aid is needed to accelerate the provision of drainage networks;

Whereas the conditions and limits laid down in Articles 14 and 19 of Council Directive 72/159/EEC of 17 April 1972 on the modernization of farms (3) are not entirely appropriate in the case of drainage to the special structural situation obtaining in the west of Ireland;

Whereas field drainage will increase agricultural potential and therefore enable production to be better oriented;

Whereas public encouragement for drainage measures should be confined to those which concern areas showing worthwhile productivity and are carried out on rational lines, where possible by groups of farmers;

Whereas aid should be provided for the purchase of the machinery needed by agricultural cooperatives for drainage work;

Whereas these objectives should be furthered by a common measure combining these elements, covering all the less-favoured areas of the west of Ireland (western region) as defined in Council Directive 75/272/EEC of 28 April 1975 concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (Ireland) (4), and constituting a special programme extending over several years;

Whereas it follows from the foregoing that the measures referred to constitute a common measure within the meaning of Article 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 of 21 April 1970 on the financing of the common agricultural policy (5), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2788/72 (6),

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(1) OJ No C 131, 5. 6. 1978, p. 67.
(2) Opinion delivered on 29 and 30 March 1978 (not yet published in the Official Journal).
(3) OJ No L 96, 23. 4. 1972, p. 1.
(4) OJ No L 128, 18. 5. 1975, p. 68.
(5) OJ No L 94, 28. 4. 1970, p. 13.
(6) OJ No L 295, 30. 12. 1972, p. 1.