COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 28 April 1975

concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive No 75/268/EEC

(Ireland)

(75/272/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to Council Directive No 75/268/EEC [1] of 28 April 1975 on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas, and in particular Article 2 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee [2];

Whereas the Government of Ireland has communicated to the Commission, in accordance with Article 2 (1) of Directive No 75/268/EEC, two areas suitable for inclusion in the Community list of less-favoured farming areas and information concerning the characteristics of these areas;

Whereas the following indices, relating to the presence of land of limited potential referred to in Article 3 (4) (a) of Directive No 75/268/EEC, have been utilized to define each of the areas in question: rough grazing accounting for more than 38% of the utilized agricultural area, livestock density below 0·54 livestock units per forage hectare and rateable valuation of land below 65% of the national average;

Whereas the economic results of farming, being considerably lower than the mean as referred to in Article 3 (4) (b) of Directive No 75/268/EEC, are arrived at by using indices reflecting an earned income per permanent male engaged in agriculture (earned income plus return on capital) below 68% of the national average (the equivalent index per hectare: 71%;

Whereas the index relating to the low population density referred to in Article 3 (4) (c) of Directive No 75/268/EEC does not exceed 24 persons per square kilometre, which represents 56% of the national average, the Community average being 168 persons per square kilometre; whereas the Commission nevertheless considers this figure acceptable in view of the very low level of the national average (43 persons per square kilometre) and the annual decline in population of 0·28%; whereas the lowest proportion of the working population engaged in agriculture as a percentage of the total working population is fixed at 50%, the national and Community averages being 26 and 9·58% respectively;

Whereas the nature and level of the abovementioned indices used by the Government of Ireland to define the areas notified to the Commission, correspond to the characteristics of the less-favoured areas referred to in Article 3 (4) of Directive No 75/268/EEC;

Whereas the amenities referred to in Article 3 (2) of Directive No 75/268/EEC, particularly the supply of drinking water to these areas, would not appear at present to be adequate, and whereas the information supplied by the Member States concerned does not enable an estimation to be made of the time necessary for substantial improvement in this situation, whereas it nevertheless seems expedient to include the areas in question in the Community list of less-favoured farming areas, on the understanding that the Government of Ireland will shortly submit to the Commission a detailed communication on this subject,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

The areas situated in Ireland which appear in the Annex shall form part of the Community list of less-favoured farming areas, within the meaning of Article 3 (4) of Directive No 75/268/EEC.

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[1] See page 1 of this Official Journal.
[2] OJ No C 62, 15. 3. 1975, p. 19.

Article 2

The Member State concerned shall forward to the Commission, by the end of 1975 at the latest, a detailed communication indicating the time by which measures for the substantial improvement in the amenities, and especially the supply of drinking water, will be effective in the areas referred to in Article 1.

Article 3

This Directive is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 1975.

For the Council

The President

M. A. CLINTON