

COMMISSION DECISION

of 1 July 1999

drawing up the list of regions covered by Objective 1 of the Structural Funds for the period 2000 to 2006

(notified under document number C(1999) 1770)

(1999/502/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 3(2) thereof,

(1) Whereas point 1 of the first subparagraph of Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 states that Objective 1 of the Structural Funds aims to promote the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind;

(2) Whereas the first subparagraph of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 specifies that the regions covered by Objective 1 are regions corresponding to level II of the Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units (NUTS level II) whose per capita gross domestic product (GDP), measured in purchasing power parities and calculated on the basis of the Community figures for 1994, 1995 and 1996 available at 26 March 1999, is less than 75 % of the Community average;

(3) Whereas the second subparagraph of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 stipulates that the outermost regions (the French overseas departments, the Azores, the Canary Islands and Madeira), which are all below the 75 % threshold, and the areas eligible under Objective 6 for the period 1995 to 1999 pursuant to Protocol 6 to the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden ⁽²⁾ are also to be covered by this Objective;

(4) Whereas, the first subparagraph of Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 states that notwithstanding Article 3 of that Regulation, the regions covered by Objective 1 in 1999 under Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 of 24 June 1988 on the tasks of the Structural Funds and their effectiveness and on coordination of their activities between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3193/94 ⁽⁴⁾, which are not referred

to in the second subparagraph of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 are to continue to receive support from the Funds under Objective 1 on a transitional basis from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2005;

(5) Whereas the second subparagraph of Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 stipulates that, at the time of adoption of the list referred to in Article 3(2), the Commission is to draw up in accordance with Article 4(5) and (6) of that Regulation a list of the NUTS level III areas belonging to those regions which are to receive support from the Funds under Objective 1 on a transitional basis in 2006;

(6) Whereas, however, the third subparagraph of Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 stipulates that the Commission, acting on a proposal from a Member State, may substitute these areas by areas at or smaller than NUTS level III belonging to those regions which satisfy the criteria of Article 4(5) to (9), without increasing the proportion of the population within each region referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 6(1) and subject to compliance with the second subparagraph of Article 4(4) of that Regulation; whereas the Commission has taken into consideration the Member States requests, in this respect;

(7) Whereas the fourth subparagraph of Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 stipulates that areas belonging to regions not included on the list referred to in the second and third subparagraphs shall continue to receive assistance from the ESF, the FIFG and the EDGGF Guidance Section in 2006 only, within the same form of assistance,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The regions covered by Objective 1 shall be those listed in Annex I.

This list shall be valid from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 1, 1.1.1995, p. 11.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 185, 15.7.1988, p. 9.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 337, 24.12.1994, p. 11.

Article 2

The regions and areas to receive transitional support under Objective 1 shall be those listed in Annex II. This list shall be valid from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2005 or 31 December 2006, respectively, for the regions listed therein.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 1 July 1999.

For the Commission
Monika WULF-MATHIES
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

List of NUTS II regions covered by Objective 1 of the Structural Funds for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006

Germany

Brandenburg
 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
 Chemnitz
 Dresden
 Leipzig
 Dessau
 Halle
 Magdeburg
 Thüringen

Greece

Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki
 Kentriki Makedonia
 Dytiki Makedonia
 Thessalia
 Ipiros
 Ionia Nisia
 Dytiki Ellada
 Sterea Ellada
 Peloponnisos
 Attiki
 Vorio Aigaio
 Notio Aigaio
 Kriti

Spain

Galicia
 Principado de Asturias
 Castilla y León
 Castilla-La Mancha
 Extremadura
 Comunidad Valenciana
 Andalucía
 Región de Murcia
 Ceuta y Melilla
 Canarias

France

Guadeloupe
 Martinique
 Guyane
 Réunion

Ireland

Border Midlands and Western

Italy

Campania
 Puglia
 Basilicata
 Calabria
 Sicilia
 Sardegna

Austria

Burgenland

Portugal

Norte
 Centro
 Alentejo
 Algarve
 Açores
 Madeira

Finland

Itä-Suomi
 Väli-Suomi ⁽¹⁾
 Pohjois-Suomi ⁽¹⁾

Sweden

Norra Mellansverige ⁽¹⁾
 Mellersta Norrland ⁽¹⁾
 Övre Norrland ⁽¹⁾

United Kingdom

South Yorkshire
 West Wales and The Valleys
 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
 Merseyside

⁽¹⁾ Only the areas listed in Annex I to Protocol 6 annexed to the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden.

ANNEX II

List of regions and areas to receive transitional support under Objective 1 of the Structural Funds for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006

Member State	Transitional support from 1 January 2000 until	
	31 December 2005 ⁽¹⁾	31 December 2006
Belgium	<p>Arrondissement d'Ath except the commune of Bernissart</p> <p>Arrondissement de Charleroi except the communes of: Chapelle-lez-Herlaimont Charleroi (with the exception of former the commune of Mont-sur-Marchienne) Châtelet Courcelles Farciennes Fontaine-l'Evêque Manage</p> <p>Arrondissement de Mons except the communes of: Boussu Dour Frameries Hensies Mons (except the communes of Jemappes, Flenu et Cuesnes) Quaregnon Quiévrain Colfontaine</p> <p>Arrondissement de Mouscron</p> <p>Arrondissement de Soignies except the commune of La Louvière (with the exception of the former commune of Boussoit)</p> <p>Arrondissement de Thuin except the communes of: Anderlues Morlanwelz</p> <p>Arrondissement de Tournai</p>	<p>Arrondissement d'Ath Only the commune of Bernissart</p> <p>Arrondissement de Charleroi Only the communes of: Chapelle-lez-Herlaimont Charleroi (with the exception of former commune of Mont-sur-Marchienne) Châtelet Courcelles Farciennes Fontaine-l'Evêque Manage</p> <p>Arrondissement de Mons Only the communes of: Boussu Dour Frameries Hensies Mons (Only the communes of Jemappes, flenu et Cuesmes) Quaregnon Quiévrain Colfontaine</p> <p>Arrondissement de Soignies Only the commune of La Louvière (with the exception of the former commune of Boussoit)</p> <p>Arrondissement de Thuin Only the communes of: Anderlues Morlanwelz</p>
Denmark		
Germany	Kreis Berlin-Ost, Stadt	
Greece		
Spain		Comunidad Autonoma Cantabria

Member State	Transitional support from 1 January 2000 until	
	31 December 2005 ⁽¹⁾	31 December 2006
France		Arrondissements d'Avesnes, de Douai et de Valenciennes Région Corse
Ireland	Dublin, Mid-East, Mid-West, South-West	South-East
Italy		Regione Molise
Luxembourg		
the Netherlands	Provincie Flevoland	
Austria		
Portugal	Lisboa e Vale de Tejo except Médio Tejo e Lezíria do Tejo	Médio Tejo e Lezíria do Tejo
Finland		
Sweden		
United Kingdom	Highlands and Islands except Islands Northern Ireland	Islands (1995 NUTS III boundaries)

⁽¹⁾ The areas listed below will continue to receive assistance from the ESF, the FIFG and the EAGGF Guidance Section in 2006 only within the same form of assistance.