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Contents

I *Acts whose publication is obligatory*

.....

II *Acts whose publication is not obligatory*

Commission

94/684/EC:

- ★ Commission Decision of 11 February 1994 concerning the granting of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the following project in Portugal: Faro waste water system 1

94/685/EC:

- ★ Commission Decision of 28 March 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning the work to increase the volume of water that can be supplied from the Evinos to Athens (Evinos aqueduct): second stage in Greece 9

94/686/EC:

- ★ Commission Decision of 28 April 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of a project concerning the re-design and modernization of the port of Leixões in Portugal 18

94/687/EC:

- ★ Commission Decision of 28 April 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the rail access to the general cargo terminal in the port of Sines in Portugal 26

Price: ECU 18

(Continued overleaf)

Acts whose titles are printed in light type are those relating to day-to-day management of agricultural matters, and are generally valid for a limited period.

The titles of all other Acts are printed in bold type and preceded by an asterisk.

94/688/EC:	
★ Commission Decision of 28 April 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for a preparatory study on the extension of the multipurpose terminal in the port of Sines in Portugal	34
94/689/EC:	
★ Commission Decision of 28 April 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning modernization of the Beira Alta railway line in Portugal	42
94/690/EC:	
★ Commission Decision of 28 April 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the preparatory study for the internal emergency plan for the ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra in Portugal	50
94/691/EC:	
★ Commission Decision of 5 May 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the Lisbon outer ring road in Portugal	58
94/692/EC:	
★ Commission Decision of 17 May 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning the construction of Via Egnatia — Igoumenitsa-Pedini section — subsection Vrosina (Psilorachi)-Pedini in Greece	66
94/693/EC:	
★ Commission Decision of 17 May 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning the Egnatia Highway: Polymylos-Veria (Kouloura) section in Greece	74
94/694/EC:	
★ Commission Decision of 17 May 1994 concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the project concerning the Lardero by-pass in Spain	82

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 11 February 1994

concerning the granting of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the following project in Portugal: Faro waste water system

No CF: 93/10/61/010

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(94/684/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽²⁾, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 of 20 July 1993 ⁽³⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas on 30 July 1993 Portugal submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for a project concerning the Faro waste water system;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project results from action taken pursuant to Article 130 s of the Treaty;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁴⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁵⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Faro waste water system project situated in Portugal as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January 1993 to 31 December 1994.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 21 057 000.
2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.
3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 1 748 450.
4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.
2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.
3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 291 266.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Portugal and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 December 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 1 January 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.
2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Portugal.

Done at Brussels, 11 February 1994.

For the Commission
Peter SCHMIDHUBER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title
- Faro waste water system: diversion and lift system to connect with the eastern treatment station
2. Authority making the application
- 2.1. Name: Direcção-Geral do Desenvolvimento Regional
- 2.2. Address: Avenida D. Carlos I, 126-7º, P-1200 Lisbon
3. Authority responsible for implementation
- 3.1. Name: Câmara Municipal de Faro
- 3.2. Address: Rua do Município, 8000 Faro
4. Location
- 4.1. Member State: Portugal
- 4.2. Administrative district: Algarve
5. Brief description
- Faro is divided into seven waste water drainage areas (A to G) which, since they are not connected to the existing eastern treatment station, discharge untreated effluent into the Ria Formosa.
- The project entails construction of a diversion system to connect the network of sewers to the treatment station. It includes:
- connections and storm drains for areas A and B,

— connections, storm drains and lift system for areas C, E and F,

— connections, storm drains and lift system for area D and diverter connector to the lift station

— industrial area — redesign of the lift system.
- The project will serve a resident and tourist population estimated at the equivalent of 112 185 inhabitants per year over the timescale of the project (to 2023). The project specifications must comply with Council Directive 91/271/EEC ⁽¹⁾.
6. Principal objectives
- The project forms part of a larger programme for the restoration of the Ria Formosa, a sensitive ecosystem whose protection is a priority in Portugal's environmental policy.
- The aim of the project is to put an end to the current system by providing treatment for domestic waste water from Faro so that the quality of the final effluent is compatible with the Ria Formosa.
7. Work schedule

	Date of commencement	Date of completion
Design		
Purchase of land	1993	1994
Main works	November 1993	December 1994
Operational phase	1993	2023 ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Timescale of the project.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 135, 30. 5. 1991, p. 40.

8. Economic analysis

The Faro waste water treatment plant, completed four years ago, has not become operational because of the lack of the necessary link between it and the collection network. The construction of the diversion system under this application will render the treatment works operative, the main aim of which is to help conserve an ecosystem of vital importance to the region.

The economic impact assessment has shown that the size of the investment is fully justified in terms of the development benefits to certain activities (fishing, winning of salt, tourism).

9. Environmental impact

The project will have a beneficial effect on the environment by contributing to the cleaning up of the Ria Formosa, an area of great ecological interest because of its situation as a wetland in direct contact with the sea.

By providing treatment for waste water from Faro, the project will substantially reduce the burden of pollution discharged into the Ria Formosa and so will help improve the quality of its water, which will in turn have a positive effect on fauna in the region.

10. Cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	Expenditure prior to 1 January 1993 ⁽¹⁾	Total eligible cost
2 057	—	2 057

⁽¹⁾ Only expenditure incurred after 1 January 1993 is eligible.

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/10/61/010

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost (1)	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central govern- ment	Other				
					%		%		%				
	1=2+11	2=4+6+10	3=2/1	4	5=4/2	6=8+9	7=6/2	8	9	10	11	12=11/1	13
1993	514,000	514,000	100	436,900	85	77,100	15		77,100				
1994	1 543,000	1 543,000	100	1 311,550	85	231,450	15		232,000				
1995													
Total	2 057,000	2 057,000	100	1 748,450	85	308,550	15		309,000				

⁽¹⁾ Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Portugal shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Portugal.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85 %. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 March 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning the work to increase the volume of water that can be supplied from the Evinos to Athens (Evinos aqueduct): second stage in Greece

No CF: 93/09/61/074

(Only the Greek text is authentic)

(94/685/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas references to 'project' shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project';

Whereas on 2 December 1993 Greece submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the work to increase the volume of water that can be supplied from the Evinos to Athens (Evinos aqueduct): second stage;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project will help achieve the objectives of Article 130r of the Treaty concerning the environment;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, technically and financially discrete stages of the project have been identified for the purpose of granting assistance from the financial instrument;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 5

Article 1

1. The stage of project concerning the situated in Greece as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 April 1994 to 31 December 1994.

2. References to 'project' in the following Articles and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project'.

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 78 506 000.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 66 730 100.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1993 budget.

Article 6

Community assistance is subject to observance of the following requirements:

- any income accruing directly from the project shall be declared to the Commission,
- a full hydrological study of the Evinos karst system and a study of how best to integrate management of the area's water resources for the supply of Athens in particular shall be commissioned and completed and the findings taken into consideration in execution of the present project,
- the leaks in the Mornos reservoir and in the conduits leading to Athens shall be located and a proposal for action to deal with them drawn up,
- a regulation reservoir downstream from the Evinos reservoir to ensure a minimum throughput of 1 m³/sec throughout the year, particularly in summer, shall be built,
- water quality in the Evinos reservoir shall be systematically monitored, as is done for the Mornos reservoir.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 33 365 050.

Article 7

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Greece and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 December 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 2 December 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

Article 8

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 9

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 11

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Article 10

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Done at Brussels, 28 March 1994.

For the Commission

Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY SHEET

1. Project title

Work to increase the volume of water that can be supplied from the Evinos to Athens (Evinos aqueduct): second stage

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Ministry for the National Economy

2.2. Address: Platia Sintagmatos, 101 80 Athens

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: Ministry for the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works

3.2. Address: Khar. Trikoupi 182, 101 80 Athens

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Greece

4.2. Region: Western Greece

5. Brief description

5.1. Evinos—Mornos tunnel (connecting aqueduct, total length 29 km), tunnelling 8 km, buttressing 8 km, lining 15 km.

5.2. Evinos dam: road building, diversion works, barrage earthworks and spillway, body of barrage, sealing with reinforced concrete (spillway, sheet-piling) in accordance with the Greek application continuation of first stage).

6. Objectives

The project aims to meet Athens' water requirements by exploiting the surface waters of the Evinos basin in order to increase the reserves of the Mornos reservoir, the main source of drinking water for Greater Athens.

7. Work schedule

	Date of commencement	Date of completion
Preparation		
Purchase of land	April 1994	December 1994
Main works	April 1994	April 1994
Operational phase		

8. Cost/benefit analysis

The cost/benefit ratio is B/C >/1

9. Environmental impact assessment

No harmful effects on the environment.

10. Total cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	Community assistance
78 506	66 730

11. This project does not concern irrigation. The Greek authorities must therefore take the necessary steps to ensure that the project does not in any way result in intensification of irrigation or expansion of irrigated areas.

The studies and additional work mentioned in Article 6 are not included in the cost of the project.

A management consultant responsible for monitoring execution of the project shall be appointed by agreement between the Commission and Greece.

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/09/61/074

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost ⁽¹⁾	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central government	Other				
	1=2+11	2=4+6+10	% 3=2/1	4	% 5=4/2	6=8+9	% 7=6/2	8	9	10	11	% 12=11/1	13
1993													
1994	78 506,000	78 506,000	100	66 730,100	85	11 775,900	15	11 775,900					
1995													
Total	78 506,000	78 506,000	100	66 730,100	85	11 775,900	15	11 775,900					

⁽¹⁾ Total eligible cost of project.

*ANNEX III***FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS**

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10% of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV**MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Greece shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Greece.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

- 7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
- 8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
- 9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

- 10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
- 11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85%. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 April 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of a project concerning the re-design and modernization of the port of Leixões in Portugal

No CF: 93/10/65/018

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(94/686/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾ as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas references to 'project' are understood to mean also 'stage of project';

Whereas on 31 August 1993 Portugal submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the re-design and modernization of the port of Leixões;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project is a transport infrastructure project of common interest;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, technically and financially discrete stages of the project have been identified for the purpose of granting assistance from the financial instrument;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The stage of the project concerning the re-design and modernization of the port of Leixões as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January 1993 to 31 December 1995.

2. References to 'project' in the following Articles and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project'.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 7 767 670.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 6 602 419.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 751 816.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Portugal and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 30 December 1995.

2. Expenditure incurred before 1 January 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community policies, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Portugal.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 1994.

For the Commission
Peter SCHMIDHUBER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Re-design and modernization of the port of Leixões

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Direcção-Geral do Desenvolvimento Regional

2.2. Address: Avenida D. Carlos I, 126-7º, P-1200 Lisbon

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: APDL — Administração dos Portos do Douro e Leixões

3.2. Address: Avenida da Liberdade — Leça da Palmeira 4450, Matosinhos

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Portugal

4.2. Administrative district: Greater Oporto

5. Brief description

This project involves:

- renovation of infrastructure in the grain terminal and dock No 2 on the north quay,
- technological conversion of gantries in the north container terminal and Ro-Ro terminal and repairs to the crane in the oil terminal,
- installation of closed-circuit television for surveillance of the port.

6. Principal objectives

The aim of the project is to improve the operating conditions of the port structures and increase the capacity of the services offered in order to save time and operating costs.

7. Work schedule

Date of commencement: January 1993

Date of completion: December 1995

8. Cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	8 328,25
Expenditure prior to date of eligibility	560,58
Total eligible cost	7 767,67

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/10/65/018

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost (1)	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central government	Other				
		1=2+11	2=4+6+10	% 3=2/1	4	% 5=4/2	6=8+9	% 7=6/2	8	9	10	11	
1993	1 768,980	1 768,980	100	1 503,633	85	265,347	15		265,347				
1994	3 329,250	3 329,250	100	2 829,862	85	499,388	15		499,388				
1995	2 669,440	2 669,440	100	2 829,862	85	400,416	15		400,416				
Total	7 767,670	7 767,670	100	6 602,519	85	1 165,151	15		1 165,151				

(1) Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV**MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Portugal shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Portugal.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85 %. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 April 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project
concerning the rail access to the general cargo terminal in the port of Sines in Portugal

No CF: 93/10/65/026

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(94/687/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European
Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93
of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial
instrument ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC)
No 566/94 ⁽²⁾,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93
establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide
Community support for projects in the fields of the
environment and trans-European transport infrastructure
networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC)
No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of
Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December
1988 concerning the provisions for implementing
Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of
the activities of the different Structural Funds between
themselves and with the operations of the European
Investment Bank and the other existing financial
instruments ⁽³⁾, as amended by Regulation (EEC)
No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93
defines the types of measure for which the cohesion
financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93
requires the Member States to ensure that adequate
publicity is given to the operations of the financial
instrument and that the measures which are described in
Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas on 8 November 1993 Portugal submitted an
application for assistance from the cohesion financial
instrument for the project concerning the rail access to
the general cargo terminal in the port of Sines in
Portugal;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is
eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC)
No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the
information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation
and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of
the Regulation;

Whereas the project is a transport infrastructure project
of common interest;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of
21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of
the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by
Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No
610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into
for measures extending over more than one financial year
shall contain a time limit for implementation which must
be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is
granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC)
No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will
ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring
of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions,
monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III
and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with
those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of
the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of
Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been
complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The project concerning the rail access to the general
cargo terminal in the port of Sines in Portugal as
described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the
period from 8 November 1993 to 31 May 1994.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 3 728 503.
2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.
3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 3 169 227.
4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.
2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.
3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 466 513.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Portugal and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 May 1994.
2. Expenditure incurred before 8 November 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.
3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in paragraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30,

52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Portugal.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 1994.

For the Commission

Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Rail access to the general cargo terminal in the port of Sines

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Direcção-Geral do Desenvolvimento Regional

2.2. Address: Avenida D. Carlos I, 126-7º, P-1200 Lisbon

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: Administração do Porto de Sines

3.2. Address: Apartado 16, 7521 Sines Codex

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Portugal

4.2. Administrative district: Alentejo coast

5. Brief description

Extension of the railway line from the multipurpose terminal to the general cargo terminal, construction of support infrastructure including a shunt yard and a covered shed and purchase of vertical and horizontal handling equipment.

6. Principal objectives

The project will encourage the use of rail transport for the movement of traffic within the port so providing more efficient inter-modal connections.

7. Work schedule

Date of commencement: June 1993

Date of completion: May 1994

8. Economic analysis

The feasibility study on this project shows an internal rate of return of 5,7%.

9. Cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	3 762,889
Expenditure prior to date of eligibility	34,386
Total eligible cost	3 728,503

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/10/65/026

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost ('1)	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central government	Other				
	1=2+11	2=4+6+10	% 3=2/1	4	% 5=4/2	6=8+9	% 7=6/2	8	9	10	11	% 12=11/1	13
1993	1 097,678	1 097,678	100	933,026	85	164,652	15		164,652				
1994	2 630,825	2 630,825	100	2 236,201	85	394,624	15		394,624				
1995													
Total	3 728,503	3 728,503	100	3 169,227	85	559,276	15		559,276				

⁽¹⁾ Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10% of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Portugal shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Portugal.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85 %. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 April 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for a preparatory study on the extension of the multipurpose terminal in the port of Sines in Portugal

No CF: 93/10/65/030

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(94/688/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾ as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas on 8 November 1993 Portugal submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for a preparatory study on the extension of the multipurpose terminal in the port of Sines in Portugal;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the preparatory study will promote the interconnection and interoperability of national networks and access to those networks;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The stage of a preparatory study on the extension of the multipurpose terminal in the port of Sines in Portugal as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1994.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

2. References to 'project' in the following Articles and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'preparatory study'.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 179 575.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 152 639.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 76 319.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Portugal and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 30 June 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 8 November 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in paragraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30,

52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Portugal.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 1994.

For the Commission

Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Extension of multipurpose terminal in the port of Sines

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Direcção-Geral do Desenvolvimento Regional

2.2. Address: Avenida D. Carlos I, 126-7º, P-1200 Lisbon

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: Administração do Porto de Sines

3.2. Address: Apartado 16, 7521 Sines Codex

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Portugal

4.2. Administrative district: Alentejano coast

5. Brief description

Assessment of economic and financial aspects and technical implementing projects concerning extension of the multipurpose terminal in the port of Sines. This entails extension of the permanent quay in the terminal to create an extra berth.

6. Principal objectives

The extension of the multipurpose terminal is designed to increase capacity for handling grain and reduce waiting time for ships in the port.

7. Work schedule

Date of commencement: January 1994

Date of completion: June 1994

8. Cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	179,575
Expenditure prior to date of eligibility	—
Total eligible cost	179,575

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/10/65/030

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost (¹)	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central govern- ment	Other				
			%		%		%					%	
	1=2+11	2=4+6+10	3=2/1	4	5=4/2	6=8+9	7=6/2	8	9	10	11	12=11/1	13
1993	179,575	179,575	100	152,639	85	26,936	15		26,936				
1994													
1995													
Total	179,575	179,575	100	152,639	85	26,936	15		26,936				

⁽¹⁾ Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Portugal shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Portugal.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85%. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 April 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning modernization of the Beira Alta railway line in Portugal

No CF: 93/10/65/031

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(94/689/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations* of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾ as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas on 8 November 1993 Portugal submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the modernization of the Beira Alta railway line;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project forms part of the master plan for a trans-European railway network;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, technically and financially discrete stages of the project have been identified for the purpose of granting assistance from the financial instrument;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation EEC No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The stage of the project concerning modernization of the Beira Alta railway line in Portugal as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 8 November 1993 to 31 December 1994.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

2. References to 'project' in the present decision and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project'.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 6 342 000.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 80%.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 5 073 600.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 611 200.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Portugal and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 December 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 8 January 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in paragraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community law, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community policies, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Portugal.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 1994.

For the Commission

Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Modernization of the Beira Alta railway line

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Direcção-Geral do Desenvolvimento Regional

2.2. Address: Avenida D. Carlos I, 126-7º, P-1200 Lisbon

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses, EP

3.2. Address: Calçada do Duque 20, 1200 Lisbon

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Portugal

4.2. Administrative district: Baixo Vouga, Dão Lafões

5. Brief description

Construction of an electric traction substation at Mortágua (km 80,7 of the Beira Alta line) and an overhead contact post at Pampilhosa (km 51,3) but excluding installation of the overhead wires.

This is the first phase of electrification of the Beira Alta line.

6. Principal objectives

As part of a series of investments to modernize the Beira Alta line, the project will increase transport capacity and quality, reduce journey times between Lisbon, Oporto and Vilar Formoso and increase traffic safety and system reliability on the line, which is Portugal's main rail link with the centre of Europe.

7. Work schedule

	Date of commencement	Date of completion
Technical projects	1988	September 1992
Main works	December 1993	December 1994
Operational phase	1995	—

8. Economic analysis

The internal rate of return of the project for the modernization of the Beira Alta line is 12%.

9. Cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	6 342,000
Expenditure prior to the date of eligibility	—
Total eligible cost	6 342,000

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/10/65/031

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost ⁽¹⁾	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central government	Other				
1=2+11	2=4+6+10	% 3=2/1	4	% 5=4/2	6=8+9	% 7=6/2	8	9	10	11	% 12=11/1	13	
1993	1 528,000	1 528,000	100	1 222,400	80	305,600	20		305,600				
1994	4 814,000	4 814,000	100	3 851,200	80	962,800	20		962,800				
1995													
Total	6 342,000	6 342,000	100	5 073,600	80	1 268,400	20		1 268,400				

⁽¹⁾ Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
- (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change. *

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV**MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
- the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Portugal shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Portugal.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 80%. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 April 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the preparatory study for the internal emergency plan for the ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra in Portugal

No CF: 93/10/65/029

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(94/690/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾ as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas on 8 November 1993 Portugal submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the preparatory study for the internal emergency plan for the ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project will help achieve the objectives of Article 130r of the Treaty concerning the environment;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The preparatory study for the internal emergency plan for the ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra in Portugal as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1994.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

2. References to 'project' in the following Articles and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'preparatory study'.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 145 807.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 123 936.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 61 968.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Portugal and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 December 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 8 November 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Portugal.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 1994.

For the Commission
Peter SCHMIDHUBER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Internal emergency plan for the ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra.

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Direcção-Geral do Desenvolvimento Regional

2.2. Address: Avenida D. Carlos I, 126-7º, 1200 Lisboa

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: APPS — Administração dos Portos de Setúbal e Sesimbra

3.2. Address: Praça da República, 2900 Setúbal

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Portugal

4.2. Administrative districts: Península de Setúbal, Alentejo

5. Brief description

Preparation of a preliminary safety study including an assessment of the various accident risks in the ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra encompassing personal safety, protection of the environment and of goods and a safety audit involving a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed solutions in preparation for their implementation. Study and preparation of the internal emergency plan to prevent accidents in the port areas. Study and development of computer applications to support the internal emergency plan.

6. Principal objectives

The main objectives of the project will be maintenance of a high level of safety for maritime transport through the best possible management of sea traffic, ensuring complementarity between rail and road transport, protection of the environment and rational utilization of infrastructure in the ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra.

7. Work schedule

Date of commencement: 1 April 1994

Date of completion: 31 December 1994

8. Cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	145,807
Expenditure prior to date of eligibility	—
Total eligible cost	145,807

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/10/65/029

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost (1)	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central government	Other				
		1=2+11	2=4+6+10	% 3=2/1	4	% 5=4/2	6=8+9	% 7=6/2	8	9	10	11	
1993													
1994	145,807	145,807	100	123,936	85	21,871	15		21,871				
1995													
Total	145,807	145,807	100	123,936	85	21,871	15		21,871				

(1) Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Portugal shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Portugal.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 80 to 85 %. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project, submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 5 May 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project
concerning the Lisbon outer ring road in Portugal

No CF: 93/10/65/011

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(94/691/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾ as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas on 30 July 1993 Portugal submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the Lisbon outer ring road;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project forms part of the master plan for a trans-European road network;

Whereas the project will generate revenues and this should be taken into account in determining the proportion of the costs eligible for Community assistance;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, technically and financially discrete stages of the project have been identified for the purpose of granting assistance from the financial instrument;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The project concerning the Lisbon outer ring road situated in Portugal as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January 1993 to 31 December 1994.

2. References to 'project' in the following Articles and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project'.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 76 301 176.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 64 855 999.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 9 376 500.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Portugal and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 December 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 1 January 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Portugal.

Done at Brussels, 5 May 1994.

For the Commission

Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Lisbon outer ring road (CREL)

2. Authority making the application

- 2.1. Name: Direcção-Geral do Desenvolvimento Regional
- 2.2. Address: Avenida D. Carlos I, 126-7º, — 1200 Lisbon

3. Authority responsible for implementation

- 3.1. Name: Brisa-Autoestradas de Portugal SA
- 3.2. Address: Avenida Fontes Pereira de Melo 6-3º, Lisbon

4. Location

- 4.1. Member State: Portugal
- 4.2. Administrative district: Lisbon

5. Brief description

The CREL consists of six subsections of motorway totalling 34,5 km, beginning at the national stadium junction and finishing at the Alverca junction.

The road will consist of two three-lane carriageways, each carriageway measuring 3,5 m wide, and a 2 m-wide central reservation.

The stage of the investment covered by this Decision concerns a series of works (levelling, surfacing, structures, viaducts and tunnels) which were defined using appropriate physical indicators as state in the application for assistance and which will be implemented between January 1993 and December 1994. These works will mean that the first subsection of the CREL (National stadium to Queluz, a distance of 3,4 km) should open to traffic in 1994.

6. Principal objectives

By acting as a ring road, the CREL, project has a significant impact on improving access to the Lisbon metropolitan area, which contains a large proportion of the national economic structure and the population of Portugal.

7. Work schedule

	Date of commencement	Date of completion
Design	October 1991	Second half 1995
Land purchase	First half 1992	Second half 1995
Principal work	October 1992	Second half 1995
Operational phase	Second half 1995	

8. Economic analysis

The internal rate of return of the CREL is 16,1 %.

9. Environmental impact assessment

The CREL will help reduce congestion affecting traffic entering and leaving Lisbon and avoid a significant amount of traffic which is not bound for Lisbon from passing through the city. This should result in environmental improvements, particularly in terms of noise pollution and gas and other engine emissions. A study to quantify the positive environmental effects should begin in 1994.

10. Cost

(ECU '000)	
Total cost	138 559,000
Expenditure prior to the date of eligibility:	3 442,000
Value of revenue related to eligible cost (at current prices):	58 815,824
Total eligible cost:	76 301,176

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/10/65/011

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost ⁽¹⁾	Public expenditure										Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other				
						Total		Central government	Other					
					%		%		%					
	1=2+11	2=4+6+10	3=2/1	4	5=4/2	6=8+9	7=6/2	8	9	10	11	12=11/1	13	
1993	22 062,353	22 062,353	100	18 753,000	85	3 309,353	15		3 309,353					
1994	54 238,823	54 238,823	100	46 102,999	85	8 135,824	15		8 135,824					
1995														
Total	76 301,176	76 301,176	100	64 855,999	85	11 445,177	15		11 445,177					

⁽¹⁾ Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV**MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Portugal shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Portugal.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85 %. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within specified a period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 May 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning the construction of Via Egnatia — Igoumenitsa-Pedini section — subsection Vrosina (Psilorachi)-Pedini in Greece

No CF: 93/09/65/016-2

(Only the Greek text is authentic)

(94/692/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas references to 'project' shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project';

Whereas on 2 July 1993 Greece submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the construction of Via Egnatia — Igoumenitsa-Pedini section — subsection Vrosina (Psilorachi)-Pedini;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project is a transport infrastructure project of common interest;

Whereas the project forms part of the master plan for a trans-European road network;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, technically and financially discrete stages of the project have been identified for the purpose of granting assistance from the financial instrument;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The stage of project concerning the construction of Via Egnatia — Igoumenitsa-Pedini section — subsection Vrosina(Psilorachi)-Pedini in Greece as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January 1993 to 31 December 1994.

2. References to 'project' in the following Articles and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project'.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 5 198 000.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 4 418 300.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 2 209 150.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Greece and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 December 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 1 January 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 17 May 1994.

For the Commission

Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Via Egnatia: Igoumenitsa—Pedini section, subsection Vrosina (Psilorachi)—Pedini

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Ministry of the Economic Affairs

2.2. Address: Syntagma Square, 101 80 Athens

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: Ministry of the Environment, Land Use Planning and Public Works

3.2. Address: Charilaou Trikoupi 182, Athens

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Greece

4.2. Region: Epirus, Prefecture of Ioannina

5. Brief description

The stage of project involves excavation (700 000 m³), the construction of embankments (700 000 m³) and the execution of small infrastructures and other earthworks on the Vrosina (Psilorachi) subsection of the Via Egnatia.

The overall project is the completion of a 71 km motorway section from Igoumenitsa to Pedini (part of the Via Egnatia), not including the subsection Agia Anastasia—Dodone of about 10 km in length.

6. Objectives

Linking Greece with the European Community, via Italy, Regional development in Epirus and Macedonia.

7. Work schedule

	Date of commencement	Date of completion
Design		completed
Purchase of land	August 1993	October 1993
Principal works	August 1994	31 December 1994
Operational phase		

8. Cost-benefit analysis

This project is viable, subject to completion of the other subsections between Igoumenitsa and Thessaloniki.

If this happens, the cost: return ratio is 1,55, the internal rate of return will be 8,8 % and the net realized value will be Dr 54 billion.

9. Environmental impact assessment

The project will probably have no particular environmental impact.

The project's objectives as set out meet the environmental conditions laid down by Ministerial Decision No 67240/93 of 18 February 1994.

10. Total cost

		(ECU '000)
Total cost		5 198,000
Community assistance		4 418,000

11. Management consultant

A management consultant will be appointed by joint agreement between the Commission and the Member State.

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/09/65/016-2

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost (1)	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities				Other			
						Total		Central government	Other				
					%		%		%				
	1=2+11	2=4+6+10	3=2/1	4	5=4/2	6=8+9	7=6/2	8	9	10	11	12=11/1	13
1993													
1994	5 198,000	5 198,000	100	4 418,300	85	779,700	15	779,700					
1995													
Total	5 198,000	5 198,000	100	4 418,300	85	779,700	15	779,700					

(1) Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV**MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Greece shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Greece.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85%. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 May 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the stage of project concerning the Egnatia Highway: Polymylos-Veria (Kouloura) section in Greece

No CF: 93/09/65/018

(Only the Greek text is authentic)

(94/693/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply, *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas references to 'project' shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project';

Whereas on 2 July 1993 Greece submitted an application for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for the project concerning the Egnatia Highway: Polymylos-Veria (Kouloura) section;

Whereas that application concerns a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the application for assistance contains all the information required by Article 8 (4) of the Regulation and satisfies the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project is a transport infrastructure project of common interest;

Whereas the project forms part of the master plan for a trans-European network;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, technically and financially discrete stages of the project have been identified for the purpose of granting assistance from the financial instrument;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and Annex VI hereto;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down, have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The stage of project concerning the Egnatia Highway: Polymylos-Veria (Kouloura) section in Greece as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January 1993 to 31 December 1994.

2. References to 'project' in the following Articles and Annexes shall be understood to mean also 'stage of project'.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 5 636 000.

2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85%.

3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 4 790 000.

4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.

2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.

3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 2 395 300.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Greece and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 31 December 1994.

2. Expenditure incurred before 1 January 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.

3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7, 30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision or its Annexes may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 17 May 1994.

For the Commission
Peter SCHMIDHUBER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Egnatia Highway: Polymylos—Veria (Kouloura) section

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Ministry of Economic Affairs

2.2. Address: Syntagma Square, 101 80 Athens

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: Ministry of Public Works

3.2. Address: Charilaou Trikoupi 182, Athens

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Greece

4.2. Region: Kozani and Imathia prefectures

5. Brief description

The stage of project comprises earth and rock excavation (700 000 m³), construction of embankments (700 000 m³), small-scale structures and other earthworks.

The final project involves completion of the construction of the 40 km section of the Egnatia Highway from Polymylos to Veria (Kouloura).

6. Principal objectives

Improvement of Greece-European Union link, via Italy, and development of the regions of Epirus and Macedonia.

The final project involves completion of the construction of the 40 km section of the Egnatia Highway from Polymylos to Veria (Kouloura).

7. Work schedule

	Date of commencement	Date of completion
Preparation		Completed
Purchase of land	April 1993	31 December 1994
Main works	September 1994	31 December 1994
Operational phase		

8. Cost-benefit analysis

The project is viable, subject to completion of the subsections linking Igoumenitsa and Thessaloniki.

On this basis, the project receives a high-feasibility rating, with a cost benefit ratio of > 1 , an internal rate of return (IRR) of $> 20\%$ and NPV (net present value) of Dr 29,7 billion.

9. Environmental impact assessment

The project is unlikely to have any significant environmental impact. The project's objectives, as specified, take into account the environmental conditions laid down by Ministerial Decree No 68681/93 of 19 November 1993.

10. Total cost

(ECU '000)

Total cost	5 636
Community assistance	4 791

11. Management consultant

A management consultant will be appointed by common accord between the Commission and the Member State.

ANNEX II

FINANCING PLAN

Project: 93/09/65/018

(ECU '000)

Year	Total cost ⁽¹⁾	Public expenditure									Private sector		Community loans
		Total public expenditure		Cohesion instrument		National authorities			Other				
						Total		Central government		Other			
				%		%		%				%	
	1=2+11	2=4+6+10	3=2/1	4	5=4/2	6=8+9	7=6/2	8	9	10	11	12=11/1	13
1993													
1994	5 636,000	5 636,000	100	4 790,600	85	845,400	15	845,400					
1995													
Total	5 636,000	5 636,000	100	4 790,600	85	845,400	15	845,400					

⁽¹⁾ Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority designated under point 5 does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) in the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10 % of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV**MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Greece shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Greece.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85 %. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audiovisual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months of adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER
COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17 May 1994

concerning the grant of assistance from the cohesion financial instrument to the project
concerning the Lardero by-pass in Spain

No CF: 93/11/65/014

(Only the Spanish text is authentic)

(94/694/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 of 30 March 1993 establishing a cohesion financial instrument ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 566/94 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 8 (6) thereof,

Whereas Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 establishes a cohesion financial instrument to provide Community support for projects in the fields of the environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 certain provisions of Titles VI and VII of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 of 19 December 1988 concerning the provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽³⁾, amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽⁴⁾, are to apply *mutatis mutandis*;

Whereas Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 defines the types of measure for which the cohesion financial instrument may provide assistance;

Whereas Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 requires the Member States to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the operations of the financial instrument and that the measures which are described in Annex V to this Decision are undertaken;

Whereas on 13 May 1993 Spain submitted two applications for assistance from the cohesion financial instrument for a set of projects concerning erosion control and revegetation;

Whereas those applications concern a project which is eligible under the terms of Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93;

Whereas the applications for assistance contain all the information required by Article 8 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and satisfy the criteria set out in Article 8 (3) and (5) of the Regulation;

Whereas the project forms part of the master plan for a trans-European road network;

Whereas Article 1 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 ⁽⁶⁾, states that the legal commitments entered into for measures extending over more than one financial year shall contain a time limit for implementation which must be specified to the recipient in due form when the aid is granted;

Whereas pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93, the Commission and the Member State will ensure that there is evaluation and systematic monitoring of the project;

Whereas the financial implementation provisions, monitoring and assessment are specified in Annexes III and IV to this Decision; whereas failure to comply with those provisions may result in suspension or reduction of the assistance granted pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and the provisions contained in Annex VI;

Whereas all the other conditions laid down have been complied with,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The project concerning the Lardero by-pass in Spain as described in Annex I hereto is hereby approved for the period from 1 January 1993 to 17 April 1994.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 79, 1. 4. 1993, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 72, 16. 3. 1994, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1.

Article 2

1. The maximum eligible expenditure to be taken as the basis for this Decision shall be ECU 6 541 153.
2. The rate of Community assistance granted to the project shall be fixed at 85 %.
3. The maximum amount of the contribution from the cohesion financial instrument shall be fixed at ECU 5 559 979.
4. The contribution is committed from the 1994 budget.

Article 3

1. Community assistance shall be based on the financial plan for the project set out in Annex II.
2. Commitments and payments of Community assistance granted to the project shall be made in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 and as specified in Annex III.
3. The amount of the first advance payment shall be fixed at ECU 2 766 537.

Article 4

1. Community assistance shall cover expenditure on the project for which legally binding arrangements have been made in Spain and for which the requisite finance has been specifically allocated to works to be completed not later than 17 April 1994.
2. Expenditure incurred before 1 January 1993 shall not be eligible for assistance.
3. The closing date for the completion of national payments on the project is fixed not later than 12 months after the date mentioned in subparagraph 1.

Article 5

1. The project shall be carried out in accordance with Community policies, and in particular with Articles 7,

30, 52 and 59 of the Treaty, as well as with Community law, in particular with the Directives coordinating public procurement procedures.

2. This Decision shall not prejudice the right of the Commission to commence infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty.

Article 6

Systematic monitoring and assessment of the project shall take place in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV hereto.

Article 7

The Member State concerned shall ensure adequate publicity for the project as specified in Annex V.

Article 8

Each Annex to this Decision shall form an integral part of it.

Article 9

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Decision may entail a reduction or suspension of assistance in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex VI.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to Spain.

Done at Brussels, 17 May 1994.

For the Commission

Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

SUMMARY

1. Project title

Lardero by-pass

2. Authority making the application

2.1. Name: Dirección General de Planificación

2.2. Address: Paseo de la Castellana, 162 — 28071 Madrid

3. Authority responsible for implementation

3.1. Name: Dirección General de Carreteras

3.2. Address: Paseo de la Castellana, 67 — 28071 Madrid

4. Location

4.1. Member State: Spain

4.2. Region: Rioja

5. Brief description

The project involves the construction of the Lardero by-pass on the N119 highway from Medinacei to Pamplona and San Sebastian.

The work involves the construction of a by-pass of 4 623 m in length, a T-junction with a waiting lane in the centre to channel traffic turning left to feed onto the current highway and a junction at the point where the by-pass meets the road from Entrena to Lardero; the project will be completed with the construction of a junction with the access road to the A68 motorway at the Logroño junction.

The cross-section consists of a carriageway of 7 m in width, shoulders of 2,5 m and outside berms of 0,5 m.

The standard cross-section of the junction legs consists of one lane of 4 m in width, a right shoulder of 2,5 m and a left shoulder of 1 m, with outer berms on both sides of 0,5 m.

6. Principal objectives

To improve road safety, reduce the impact of through traffic on populated areas and reduce travelling time.

Quantified objectives:

- to provide a better service on a route with an average daily traffic rate of 16 200 vehicles, of which 10 % are heavy vehicles,
- a two minute reduction in travelling time,
- a one-third reduction in the number of accidents.

7. Work schedule

Date of commencement: 17 October 1992

Date of completion: 17 April 1994

8. Economic analysis

The calculated internal rate of return is 20 %. Once the road is in use, it is planned to manage it without tolls.

(¹) Total eligible cost of project.

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1. The financial provisions referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93 shall be implemented as follows:

Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be expressed as a percentage of eligible expenditure. If the actual expenditure incurred differs from the expenditure initially planned, the Community assistance granted shall be varied to take account of this but may not exceed the maximum amount stated in the Decision. A change of the rate of Community assistance or of the maximum amount of the grant will require a modification of the Decision according to the procedures described in point 12.

Commitments and payments

3. The Member State shall undertake to ensure that, for the project to which this Decision relates, all public or private bodies involved in the management and implementation of these operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting codification of all transactions concerned which will facilitate the verification of expenditure by the Community and national control authorities.
4. Budgetary commitments and payments shall be made in accordance with Article 9 (4), (5) and (6) of Regulation (EEC) No 792/93.
5. All payments of aid granted by the Commission under this Decision shall be made to the authority designated by the Member State, which shall also be responsible for refunding any overpaid amounts to the Commission. Payments shall be made to a single bank account designated by the Member State. As a general rule, the Commission shall make payments no later than two months after receipt of a valid application.
6. The Member State shall ensure that applications for payment and statements of expenditure actually incurred comply with the financing plan, including the schedule of expenditure, annexed to this Decision, as amended where appropriate, following the procedures laid down in points 12 and 13.
7. In accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, all commitments and payments shall be in ecus.
8. Statements of expenditure in support of applications for payment shall be denominated in ecus or in national currency.
9. Member States which submit statements of expenditure in ecus shall convert the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency into ecus using the rate for the month during which the expenditure was booked in the accounts of the authorities responsible for the financial management of projects. Each month the Commission shall inform the Member States of the rate to be used for that purpose.
10. Statements of expenditure in national currency shall be converted into ecus at the rate for the month when they were received by the Commission.

Recovery of undue payments

11. Any sum wrongly paid shall be repaid to the Commission by the authority designated in point 5. Interest on account of late payments shall be charged on sums not repaid in accordance with Article 24 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. If the authority does not repay the amount due to the Community, the Member State shall refund this amount to the Commission.

Procedure for amending the project Decision

12. Any amendments to the Decision shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) Amendments which entail a substantial change in the objectives or characteristics of the project, an increase or reduction in the rate of financing applied or the maximum amount of assistance or a substantial change in the financing plan or schedule of expenditure shall be made by means of a Commission decision taken in response to a request by the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission, after consultation with the Member State;
 - (b) In the case of other amendments, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment. The Commission shall make its comments or signify its agreement within 20 working days of receipt of the proposal. The amendments shall be adopted when the Commission has given its agreement.
13. Any change in annual expenditure of less than 10% of the total expenditure planned for the project shall not be regarded as a substantial change of the financing plan and the schedule of expenditure.

Procedure for closing a project

14. The time limits for complying with the legal obligations contracted under this Decision shall be complied with and payments made in accordance with Article 4 of the Decision. These may be amended before they expire in accordance with the procedure in point 12 (b) provided that the extension does not exceed one year. For that purpose, the Member State shall send the Commission a proposal for amendment together with information justifying the amendment. Where the extension exceeds one year, the procedure in point 12 (a) shall apply.
15. If the time limit is not extended, any expenditure incurred after the dates indicated in Article 4 of the Decision shall not be eligible for assistance from the financial instrument.

ANNEX IV

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The national body responsible for implementation shall be fully involved in the monitoring and assessment of projects. In order to carry out these obligations, the Member States may request a Community contribution from the Commission as technical support.

A. Monitoring

2. Monitoring means a system of information on the progress made in implementing the project. Monitoring shall use financial and, where appropriate, physical indicators which enable actual progress on completion of the project to be compared with the financing plan in Annex II and the schedule for implementation in Annex I.
3. The implementation of projects shall be monitored by means of:
 - the Monitoring Committee set up by each Member State concerned,
 - reports,
 - sample checks.

Monitoring Committee

4. The Monitoring Committee set up to monitor projects financed by the cohesion financial instrument in Spain shall be responsible for monitoring the project which is the subject of this Decision. The Committee shall review its implementation at regular intervals and, where necessary, propose any adjustments required.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee, including appointment of its chairman, its operation and frequency of meetings, shall be adopted by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission, not later than three months after the approval of the first project in Spain.

5. The Committee shall:

- (a) monitor the proper implementation of the project and ensure that it achieves the objectives laid down for it in accordance with the plan originally adopted;
- (b) give its opinion on the draft annual reports on implementation referred to in point 6;
- (c) propose, when appropriate, the necessary measure to ensure that the project achieves the objectives laid down for it;
- (d) ensure publicity for the project;
- (e) ensure that Community policies are respected, especially environment policy;
- (f) decide by agreement between the Commission and the Member State any additional responsibilities of the Committee.

In general, the documents required for meetings of the Committee shall be available three weeks in advance.

Reports

6. In accordance with Article 25 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, annual reports for each complete year of implementation and a final report shall be drawn up for the project which is the subject of this Decision.

The first annual report on this project shall be submitted to the Commission by the authority responsible no later than 15 months after adoption of the Decision approving the project. The report shall contain the following information:

- progress of the project,
- details of any divergence from the implementation plan originally laid down,
- an outline of the main problems encountered and the measures taken to solve them.

On the basis of the information in the annual reports, the Commission and the Member State may, where necessary, revise the financing plan for the project and make adjustments to it.

The final report, to be submitted six months after physical completion of the project, shall report on the work carried out and its conformity with the Decision approving the project and give an initial appraisal of the chances of achieving the results sought.

Payment of the balance of Community assistance shall be subject to approval of the final report.

Checks

7. Checks may be carried out in accordance with Article 23 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 by both the Member State and the Commission. The Member State and the Commission shall immediately exchange any relevant information concerning the results.
8. For a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project, the authority responsible for implementation shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure.
9. The Member State shall keep available for the Commission all appropriate national reports concerning the checks carried out.

B. Assessment

10. An assessment of the project may be carried out during its implementation at the request of the Member State or on the initiative of the Commission in order to assess whether the project is progressing in accordance with the objectives originally laid down and to propose adjustments to take account of problems encountered during implementation. The Monitoring Committee shall take into account this evaluation.
11. An *ex-post* assessment of the impact of the project may be carried out by an assessor appointed by joint agreement between the Member State and the Commission once the project has been completed.

ANNEX V

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

The Member State concerned should ensure that the general public are aware of the role played by the Community in financing the project. The following measures, *inter alia*, should be undertaken with this end in view:

- panels of an appropriate size, to be agreed between the Member State and the Commission, shall mark the project. These panels should indicate that the project in question has been funded by the Cohesion Fund of the European Community at a rate of 85 %. Appropriate European Community identity symbols should be used on every panel,
- the Member State concerned shall publicise the project using appropriate means, especially audio-visual means. Such publicity shall refer to the objectives and actions and to the benefits to the general public which will derive from the project,
- the Member State concerned shall provide the public with brochures, leaflets and other types of information. They may use Community channels for the distribution of these brochures and leaflets,
- from the outset, the Member State concerned shall ensure that there is transparent and open access to appropriate information requested by the public. With regard to environmental projects the provisions of Council Directive 90/313/EEC ⁽¹⁾ have to be respected.

The Member State concerned shall consult the Commission on what initiatives it proposes to take in this respect within two months after the adoption of the Decision. It shall also report annually to the Commission on the information and publicity measures undertaken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990, p. 56.

ANNEX VI

OBSERVANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DECISION AND OF OTHER COMMUNITY POLICIES

1. The Member State and the beneficiaries shall ensure that Community finance is used for the purposes intended.
2. Where the Commission considers that for a given project, this requirement or other provisions of the Decision or of Community policies have not been or are not being complied with, it shall conduct suitable examination of the case in particular requesting that the Member State or other authorities designated by it to implement the project and submit their comments within a specified period of time.

Following this examination, the Commission may suspend payments of Community funds. In this case, it will notify the authority in the Member State responsible for implementation of the project. This letter of notification shall also state the action to be taken in respect of Community funds already paid out for the project.

3. For projects in respect of which the above steps have been taken, the current and the remaining payments shall be considered suspended totally or in part until the Commission is satisfied that the necessary remedial measures have been taken.
4. If this examination reveals finally that the proper terms and conditions of the Decision and of Community policy have not been complied with, and that corrective measures have not been taken by the Member State, the assistance shall be reduced or cancelled. Provisions concerning the recovery of funds unduly paid are set out in point 11 of Annex III.