



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 27-IX-2007
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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 27-IX-2007

adopting the operational programme for Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the region of the Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland in the United Kingdom

CCI 2007 UK 162 PO 001

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999¹, and in particular Article 32(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 3 April 2007, the United Kingdom submitted to the Commission a proposal for an operational programme for the region of the Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland fulfilling the conditions for the Regional competitiveness and employment objective pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. At the request of the Commission, the national authorities submitted additional information on 13 July 2007 and on 30 August 2007.
- (2) The operational programme has been drawn up by the United Kingdom within the framework of the partnership referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.
- (3) The Commission has appraised the proposed operational programme and considers that it contributes to the achievement of the objectives set out in Council Decision 2006/702/EC of 6 October 2006 on the Community strategic guidelines on cohesion² and in the national strategic reference framework³.
- (4) The proposal for an operational programme contains all the components referred to in Article 37(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, with the exception of an indicative list of major projects referred to in point (h) of Article 37(1) of that Regulation, as it is not expected that major projects will be submitted under this operational programme.
- (5) In accordance with Article 37(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the operational programme includes a justification for the thematic, geographical and financial

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25. Regulation as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1989/2006 (OJ L 411, 30.12.2006, p. 6).

² OJ L 291, 21.10.2006, p. 11.

³ Decision C(2007)3583 of 30 July 2007

concentration on the priorities laid down in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999⁴.

- (6) In accordance with Article 37(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the operational programme contains information on the approach to sustainable urban development.
- (7) It is appropriate to fix the maximum rate and the maximum amount of the contribution from the Funds for the operational programme and each priority axis, as referred to in Article 53(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.
- (8) Aid granted under the operational programme should comply with the State aid rules that are in force and any other applicable provision of Community law.
- (9) The proposed operational programme should therefore be adopted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The operational programme for Community assistance under Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the region of the Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland for the programming period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 as set out in Annex I and containing the following priority axes is hereby adopted :

- (1) Research and Innovation;
- (2) Enterprise Growth;
- (3) Urban Regeneration;
- (4) Rural Development;
- (5) Technical Assistance.

Article 2

Expenditure actually paid under the operational programme shall be eligible from 1 January 2007.

Article 3

1. The maximum amount of assistance from the European Regional Development Fund granted under the operational programme, as calculated with reference to the public eligible expenditure, is set at EUR 375,957,844 and the maximum co-financing rate is set at 41%.

⁴ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 1.

2. The national counterpart of EUR 533,839,253 may be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other lending instruments.
3. Within the operational programme referred to in paragraph 1 the maximum amount for assistance and the maximum co-financing rate for each priority axis shall be as set out in the second to sixth subparagraphs of this paragraph.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis Research and Innovation is set at 45% and the maximum amount for assistance from the ERDF to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public eligible expenditure, is set at EUR 92,109,671.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis Enterprise Growth is set at 40% and the maximum amount for assistance from the ERDF to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public eligible expenditure, is set at EUR 122,186,299.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis Urban Regeneration is set at 40% and the maximum amount for assistance from the ERDF to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public eligible expenditure, is set at EUR 101,508,618.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis Rural Development is set at 40% and the maximum amount for assistance from the ERDF to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public eligible expenditure, is set at EUR 51,130,268.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis Technical Assistance is set at 50% and the maximum amount for assistance from the ERDF to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public eligible expenditure, is set at EUR 9,022,988.

4. The corresponding financing plan is set out in Annex II.

Article 4

Any public support under the operational programme shall comply with the procedural and substantive State aid rules applicable at the time when the public support is granted.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 27-IX-2007.

For the Commission
Danuta HÜBNER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Operational programme

ANNEX II

Financing plan