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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 27-VII-2007
C(2007) 3553 final

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 27-VII-2007

approving certain elements of the national strategic reference framework of Ireland

CCI 2007 IE 16 U NS 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 of 11 July 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 28(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 5 March 2007, within five months following the adoption of Council Decision 2006/702/EC of 6 October 2006 on Community strategic guidelines on cohesion², Ireland submitted to the Commission a national strategic reference framework after consultation with relevant partners as referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. That national strategic reference framework had been prepared in dialogue with the Commission.
- (2) The Commission has not made observations as provided for by Article 28(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.
- (3) The analysis of the socio-economic situation presented by Ireland in the national strategic reference framework is consistent with the national reform programme. The national strategic reference framework analyses socio-economic development disparities across regions and sectors, taking into account trends in the European and world economy, social disparities and disadvantaged groups as well as urban areas. The analysis reveals driving forces and development tendencies, including the sectoral and regional dimension of socio-economic development, for the whole territory.

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

² OJ L 291, 21.10.2006, p. 11.

- (4) The strategy of the national strategic reference framework covers the programming period 2007 to 2013. It identifies priorities and objectives to be implemented by the operational programmes. The strategy of the national strategic reference framework is consistent with the Community objectives for cohesion policy, as set out in Decision 2006/702/EC, with the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs as set out in Council Decision 2005/600/EC of 12 July 2005 on Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States³ and with relevant employment recommendations made under Article 128(4) of the Treaty.
- (5) The national strategic reference framework indicates that in the operational programmes, which are in the list proposed by Ireland 83% of expenditure for the Regional competitiveness and employment objective should be allocated to the categories of expenditure referred to in Article 9(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and in Annex IV thereto.
- (6) In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 the strategy ensures that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective are promoted and that appropriate steps are taken to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the various stages of implementation of the Funds.
- (7) The national strategic reference framework contains details of the mechanisms and procedures for ensuring coordination between assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the relevant national, sectoral and regional policies of Ireland. It also contains details of the mechanisms for ensuring coordination between that assistance and assistance from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Fishery Fund.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 28 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the Commission has taken note of the national strategy and the priority themes chosen and has verified that the list of operational programmes is consistent with them.
- (9) As regards the indicative annual allocation from each Fund by programme, the financial contribution from the Community available over the entire period and its year-by-year breakdown are expressed in euro. The annual breakdown is consistent with the relevant financial perspective for the period 2007 to 2013,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The national strategic reference framework submitted by Ireland is acceptable. The Commission takes note of the national strategy presented by Ireland. The following priority themes will benefit from the assistance of the Funds:
 - (1) Human Capital Investment through upskilling the workforce and increasing the participation and activation of groups outside the workforce;

³ OJ L 205, 6.8.2005, p. 21.

- (2) Supporting Innovation, Knowledge and Entrepreneurship in the Regions;
 - (3) Strengthening the competitiveness, attractiveness and connectivity of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) Gateways and Hubs through improved access to quality infrastructure and promoting environmental and sustainable development.
2. The list of operational programmes for the Regional competitiveness and employment objective, as set out in Annex I, which shall implement the strategy, is consistent with the priority themes referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 2

1. The contribution of the Funds for the realisation of the priority themes selected for joint action by the Community and Ireland is set at EUR 750.724.742 for the period 2007 to 2013.
2. The indicative initial estimated breakdown among the Funds of the total Community assistance available shall be as follows:

ERDF	EUR 375.362.372
ESF	EUR 375.362.370
3. The indicative annual allocation from each Fund by programme is set out in Annex II.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 27-VII-2007

For the Commission
Danuta Hübner
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

List of operational programmes for the Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Border, Midland and Western Operational Programme (ERDF), CCI number: 2007IE162PO001

Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme (ERDF), CCI number: 2007IE162PO002

Human Capital Investment Operational Programme (ESF) CCI number: 2007IE052PO001

ANNEX II

Financial table for the NSRF: Indicative Allocation by Fund and Programme

Financial Table for the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) - Indicative annual allocation by Fund and Operational Programme									
Article 27 (4) (e) and Article 28 (3) (b) of the Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006									
REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS & EMPLOYMENT			Community Participation						
Operational Programme	Fund	Total	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
€m- Current Prices									
Southern & Eastern Regional	ERDF	146,603,534	19,719,928	20,114,327	20,516,613	20,926,946	21,345,484	21,772,394	22,207,842
Border, Midlands & Western Regional	ERDF	228,758,838	76,071,817	60,008,711	43,272,654	25,843,151	7,699,159	7,853,142	8,010,204
Total ERDF		375,362,372	95,791,745	80,123,038	63,789,267	46,770,097	29,044,643	29,625,536	30,218,046
Human Capital Investment	ESF	375,362,370	95,791,744	80,123,038	63,789,267	46,770,097	29,044,642	29,625,536	30,218,046
Total all Funds - NSRF 2007-2013		750,724,742	191,583,489	160,246,076	127,578,534	93,540,194	58,089,285	59,251,072	60,436,092
Total ERDF		375,362,372	95,791,745	80,123,038	63,789,267	46,770,097	29,044,643	29,625,536	30,218,046
Total ESF		375,362,370	95,791,744	80,123,038	63,789,267	46,770,097	29,044,642	29,625,536	30,218,046