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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 1 March 1983

FOURTH COMMISSION REPORT

TO THE COUNCIL AND PARLIAMENT

on the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2744/80
of 27 October 1980 establishing supplementary measures in
favour of the United Kingdom

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Introduction

1. The first three half-yearly reports on the implementation of the Regulation establishing supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom (1) covered the period from 1 November 1980 to 30 June 1982. This fourth report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 1982.

Verification of the implementation of the special programmes

2. As in previous periods, Commission staff carried out a number of on-site inspections and document checks, to verify that the special programmes and sub-programmes were being implemented in accordance with the Regulation and the Decisions pursuant thereto, and to monitor the use made of the financial contributions granted by the Community. In particular, it was verified that the investments which had been made corresponded to the financial assistance provided.

Inspections during the period of this report covered, in September 1982, the special road investment programme in various regions of the United Kingdom, and, in November, the roads sub-programme as well as the water and sewerage sub-programme in the North of England. These inspections, relating to expenditure in the financial year 1981/82, did not reveal any problems.

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(1) Doc. SEC(81)1140 of 15 July 1981, COM(82)137 final of 23 March 1982 and COM(82)460 final of 20 July 1982.

This means that the eight inspections carried out by Commission staff to date have found on the whole that the funds had been used correctly and the special programmes properly executed. No irregularities were found and a few accounting questions were ironed out without any difficulty.

Official statement that the amount paid has been exhausted

3. On 23 July 1982 the United Kingdom Government certified that the assistance granted under the Decisions of 24 March 1982 had been exhausted, and this was confirmed in its annual report submitted on 25 October 1982.

In a few cases there were larger differences between the estimated and the actual amount of public expenditure. These divergences were duly taken into account in preparing the next Decision in December 1982 (see point 8).

Annual report from the United Kingdom

4. As mentioned in the above point, in October the United Kingdom submitted its annual report on the implementation of the special programme to the Commission. As in the previous year, this report contains detailed information on the progress of the investments planned under the special programmes and the individual sub-programmes. It also provides explanations for the differences between final expenditure and the programme estimates. Shortfalls in expenditure resulted primarily from a reduced rate of economic activity and, in the case of outdoor construction projects, from unfavourable weather conditions, but also because the trend in prices was more favourable than originally expected. In a number of cases shortfalls in expenditure on some categories of investment were offset by higher expenditure in other areas.
5. The report, together with its own inspections, enabled the Commission to obtain an accurate picture of the implementation of the special programmes. It also contains revised estimates for public expenditure under the individual sub-programmes for the financial year 1982/83.

Payment of the balance of 10% in respect of the Decisions taken in March 1982

6. After the official statement that payments had been exhausted, had been received and scrutinized, the outstanding 10% balances in respect of 24 of the 30 sub-programmes were paid over at the beginning of August. In the remaining cases, in which there were larger divergences between estimated and actual expenditure or in which additional information was required, payment of the outstanding 10% was temporarily postponed; it took place in November and December 1982 (see point 11).

Budgetary amounts available in December 1982

7. The budgetary appropriations available in 1982 amounted to 1 804.212 MioECU. After 1 617.843 MioECU had been committed under the Decisions of 24 March 1982, the situation was as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Available in 1982 | : | 1 804.212 MioECU |
| Committed in March 1982 | : | 1 617.843 MioECU |
| Balance remaining available: | | <u>186.369 MioECU</u> |

This balance of 186.369 MioECU was available for use under the supplementary measures until the end of 1982.

Decision of 14 December 1982

8. The existing multiannual special programmes were available for allocation of the remaining funds, and it was decided to consider in particular the railways sub-programme, for which no assistance had been granted in March 1982, and to increase aid for the electricity sub-programme.

In preparing the Decision, attention was also paid to the need to take into account the divergences between the expenditure actually incurred by the United Kingdom authorities and the original programme estimates, and to redistribute accordingly the funds granted in March (see point 3).

The Commission therefore adopted only a single Decision, which amended and extended the Decisions taken in March and brought the new commitments for the eight infrastructure programmes to 186.369 MioECU.

9. With this Decision, which was adopted on 14 December 1982 and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (2), the total funds entered in the Community Budget for 1982 for the supplementary measures for 1981 were exhausted. The amount of financial assistance granted for the supplementary measures in 1982 accordingly came to 1 804.212 MioECU, which brought the total financial assistance granted by the Community between December 1980 and the end of 1982 to 3 241.796 MioECU.
10. Table I attached shows the chronological and regional breakdown of all the amounts committed under the Decision of December 1980, January, March and December 1981, and March and December 1982. Table II shows the breakdown of appropriations among the special programmes and sub-programmes and the rate of assistance applied.

Payments made in December 1982

11. The financial assistance granted under the Decision of 14 December 1982 related to expenditure made during the British financial year 1981/82 which ended in March 1982. The investments to be financed had therefore already been completed at the time this Decision was taken (see point 4 above on the annual report from the United Kingdom). The new commitments could therefore be paid in full. At the same time the last remaining 10% balances were paid over, after the Decision had effected the necessary redistribution between individual sub-programmes (see point 8).

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(2) Decision 82/910/EEC, OJ L 381, 31.12.1982, p. 15

12. A look back at the payments made from 1980 to 1982 gives the following picture:

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| December 1980 | : | 174.150 MioECU |
| January 1981 | : | 110.430 " " |
| March 1981 | : | 507.978 " " |
| July 1981 | : | 51.199 " " |
| September 1981 | : | 30.550 " " |
| December 1981 | : | 548.276 " " |
| March 1982 | : | 1 456.059 " " |
| April 1982 | : | 15.001 " " |
| August 1982 | : | 130.110 " " |
| November 1982 | : | 8.325 " " |
| December 1982 | : | 209.718 " " |
| Total | | <hr/> 3 241.796 MioECU |

This means that the payments actually made corresponded to the amount of all commitments adopted in the Decisions.

The ad hoc Committee

13. The Committee on supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom held its fifth meeting on 10 December 1982. The object of this meeting was to discuss the annual report on the implementation of the special programmes and to express an opinion on the amending and supplementary decision prepared by Commission staff. The Committee gave a favourable opinion by a qualified majority.
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TABLE I

Supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom
Financial contributions allocated in 1980, 1981 and 1982

MioECU

| | North | North West | South West | Yorkshire & Humberside | Scotland | Wales | Northern Ireland | Special road investment programme | Total |
|------------|---------|------------|------------|------------------------|----------|---------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Dec. 1980 | - | 101,400 | - | - | - | 92,100 | - | - | 193,500 |
| Jan. 1981 | - | 64,300 | - | - | - | 58,400 | - | - | 122,700 |
| March 1981 | 106,490 | - | 28,140 | 144,580 | 159,540 | - | 125,670 | - | 564,420 |
| Dec. 1981 | 39,136 | 77,544 | 13,173 | 75,213 | 73,459 | 56,698 | 40,280 | 181,461 | 556,964 |
| March 1982 | 140,662 | 333,967 | 40,608 | 246,876 | 277,886 | 182,919 | 200,502 | 194,423 | 1.617,843 |
| Dec. 1982 | 9,043 | 21,574 | 2,024 | 31,692 | 46,412 | 1,093 | 9,437 | 65,094 | 186,369 |
| Total | 295,331 | 598,785 | 83,945 | 498,361 | 557,297 | 391,210 | 375,889 | 440,978 | 3.241,796 |

TABEL II

Supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom

Breakdown by region and sub-programme

Commitments made in a) 1980 and 1981
b) 1982

MioECU

| Sub-programme | | North of England | North West of England | South West of England | Yorkshire & Humberside | Scotland | Wales | % of public expenditure. | Northern Ireland | % of public expenditure (N. Irel.) | Special road invest. progr. | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|---------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Roads | a | 30,350 | 48,692 | - | 17,199 | 66,955 | 73,484 | 50 | 46,463 | 60 | - | 283,143 |
| | b | 17,332 | 44,834 | 0,358 | 17,117 | 52,712 | 63,456 | 40 | 26,590 | 50 | - | 222,399 |
| Railways | a | 17,658 | 30,499 | 6,714 | 35,961 | 44,238 | 12,842 | 50 | 2,097 | 60 | - | 150,009 |
| | b | 13,608 | 22,202 | 2,936 | 24,996 | 28,004 | 6,016 | 40 | 3,581 | 50 | - | 101,343 |
| Electricity | a | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | b | 38,317 | 112,892 | 4,029 | 90,063 | 129,454 | 29,096 | 25 | - | - | - | 403,851 |
| Water and sewerage | a | 36,917 | 43,876 | 9,767 | 41,552 | - | 16,533 | 30 | 19,939 | 40 | - | 168,584 |
| | b | 25,515 | 54,360 | 11,101 | 46,124 | - | 22,704 | 40*) | 22,650 | 50 | - | 182,454 |
| Advance factories | a | - | 1,569 | - | - | 13,133 | 22,294 | 20 | 4,672 | 20 | - | 41,668 |
| | b | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land reclamation | a | - | - | - | - | 6,585 | - | 20 | 0,441 | 20 | - | 7,026 |
| | b | - | - | - | - | 4,978 | - | 20 | 0,358 | 20 | - | 5,336 |
| Telecommunications | a | 60,701 | 118,608 | 24,832 | 125,081 | 102,088 | 82,045 | 50 | 59,597 | 60 | - | 572,952 |
| | b | 54,933 | 121,253 | 24,208 | 100,268 | 109,150 | 62,740 | 40 | 56,849 | 50 | - | 529,401 |
| Housing | a | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32,741 | 20 | - | 32,741 |
| | b | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 99,911 | 50 | - | 99,911 |
| Special road investment programme | a | - | - | - | - | - | - | 59,22 | - | - | 181,461 | 181,461 |
| | b | - | - | - | - | - | - | 57,5 | - | - | 259,517 | 259,517 |
| Total | a | 145,626 | 243,244 | 41,313 | 219,793 | 232,999 | 207,198 | | 165,950 | | 181,461 | 1437,584 |
| | b | 149,705 | 355,541 | 42,632 | 278,568 | 324,298 | 184,012 | | 209,939 | | 259,517 | 1804,212 |
| Total a and b | | 295,331 | 598,785 | 83,945 | 498,361 | 557,297 | 391,210 | | 375,889 | | 440,978 | 3241,796 |

*) North of England: 30%