

Commission press release on the cofinancing of the Portuguese regional aid scheme (18 January 1988)

Caption: In a press release dated 18 January 1988, the European Commission announces that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will participate in the financing of the Portuguese regional aid scheme for the period 1988–1991.

Source: RAPID. The Press and Communication Service of the European Commission. [ON-LINE]. [Brussels]: European Commission, [24.10.2007]. IP/88/24. Disponible sur <http://europa.eu/rapid/setLanguage.do?language=en>.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/commission_press_release_on_the_cofinancing_of_the_portuguese_regional_aid_scheme_18_january_1988-en-ad0901d6-3965-42ae-8d0d-d980b49d91cf.html

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40 000 million escudos from the Regional Fund for the cofinancing of the Portuguese regional aid policy (18 January 1988)

On his visit to the Portuguese authorities, Mr SCHMIDHUBER, Member of the Commission in charge of Community regional policy, confirmed that the Community authorities had approved a European Regional Development Fund grant of 40 940 million escudos (241 million ECU) towards financing the Portuguese regional aid scheme, in the form of a national programme of Community interest. The grant will cover the period 1988 to 1991. In addition to the aid scheme, this programme is to strengthen basic infrastructures essential to industry and provide back-up for the initial restructuring and the development of high-quality services for firms.

The programme for partially financing the aid scheme aims to contribute to Portugal's economic development by bringing it closer to the level of its partners in the Community and by reducing the country's regional disparities. The aid scheme is concerned with investment in the fields of industry, handcrafts and tourism and it also covers the development of a number of services for creating and modernizing enterprises. Part of the assisted investment under this scheme is to be channelled into the least-favoured regions and it is estimated that it will be possible to create or safeguard approximately 27 000 jobs in 4 years.

The estimated total cost of the four-year programme (1988-1991) is 171 953 million escudos (1 015 million ECU) of which 62 161 million escudos (367 million ECU) will be public expenditure. The average rate of ERDF assistance will be 65.86 % of total public expenditure, with 70 % for the first three years and 55 % for the final year.

Equivalent figure for Lisbon and Oporto are 45 %, 45 % and 50 % respectively.

To ensure the success of the aid scheme, the programme also includes schemes for stimulation and promotion of the economy. Those responsible for stimulation of the economy will play a part in increasing the development potential of different regions in the interior of the country and increasing commercial operators' awareness of new developments. They will also assist firms, on request with the completion of formalities relating to aid grants and will help with their investment projects.