

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 391/2007

of 11 April 2007

laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by Member States in implementing the monitoring and control systems applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 of 22 May 2006 establishing Community financial measures for the implementation of the common fisheries policy and in the area of the Law of the Sea ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 31 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Community has been financing Member States actions in the field of fisheries control and enforcement since 1990, in line with the objectives established under Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 ⁽²⁾.
- (2) Improvements towards an efficient control system throughout the Community will be difficult to achieve without incentives, in particular when new technologies are to be tested and introduced where appropriate.
- (3) Evidence shows that the resources of Member States are still inadequate to fulfil their obligations under Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002. In particular, Community aid to assist Member States is requested in order to overcome existing differences in their fisheries control and surveillance capabilities.
- (4) Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 provides, amongst other actions, for Community financial measures for expenditure on fisheries control, inspection and surveillance for the period 2007 to 2013.
- (5) Article 8(a) of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 provides for a list of actions undertaken by Member States in the area of fisheries control and enforcement which shall be considered eligible for Community financial assistance.
- (6) In view of the principle of sound financial management, Member States must have clear indications on the rules to be followed in order to benefit from Community financial assistance when incurring on expenditure in the area of fisheries control and enforcement.

(7) It is necessary to ensure that Community funds available for such actions are allocated efficiently with a view to reducing identified weaknesses in such a way that controls are carried out to a high standard.

(8) Member States should assess their programmes and the impact of their expenditure on control, inspection and surveillance, each year and over the whole period 2007 to 2013.

(9) With the view of simplifying procedures, as of 1 January 2007 claims for reimbursement relating to expenditure approved on the basis of Council Decisions 95/527/EC ⁽³⁾, 2001/431/EC ⁽⁴⁾ and 2004/465/EC ⁽⁵⁾, shall be submitted in accordance with Annexes VI and VII to this Regulation.

(10) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject-matter

This Regulation establishes detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the Community financial contribution for expenditure incurred by Member States in implementing monitoring and control systems applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy in the period 2007 to 2013.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purpose of this Regulation the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) 'Annual fisheries control programme' means an annual programme drawn up by a Member State in accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 160, 14.6.2006, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 301, 14.12.1995, p. 30.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 154, 9.6.2001, p. 22.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 157, 30.4.2004, p. 114, corrected by OJ L 195, 2.6.2004, p. 36. Decision as amended by Decision 2006/2/EC (OJ L 2, 5.1.2006, p. 4).

- (b) 'Budgetary commitment' means the operation reserving the appropriation necessary to cover subsequent payments to honour a legal commitment;
- (c) 'Legal commitment' means the act whereby the authorising authority of a Member State enters into or establishes an obligation which results in a charge.

Article 3

Annual fisheries control programmes

1. Member States wishing to receive a financial contribution for expenditure incurred under Article 8(a) of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 shall notify to the Commission an annual fisheries control programme by 31 January of each year.

2. In addition to the information required by Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006, Member States shall state in their fisheries control programme, for each project:

- (a) a yearly forecast of reimbursement requests;
- (b) the measures foreseen to make known to the public that the project received financial support from the Community;
- (c) when the project concerns the purchase and modernisation of vessels and aircraft: the specification of the type of vessel or aircraft;
- (d) a description of all means available by the administration for fisheries monitoring and control, drawn up in accordance with Annex I.

3. Detailed rules as to the eligibility of certain actions are set out in Annexes II, III and IV.

Article 4

Commitment of expenditure

Member States shall enter into legal and budgetary commitments for actions considered eligible for a financial contribution under the decision provided for in Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 within 12 months of the end of the year in which they were notified of such decision.

Article 5

Eligible expenditure

In order to be eligible for reimbursement, expenditure shall:

- (a) be foreseen in the fisheries control programme; and

(b) relate to any of the actions referred to in Article 8(a) of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006;

(c) concern projects with a cost exceeding EUR 40 000, VAT excluded, except where the project concerns an action referred to in Article 8(a)(ii) or (v) of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 or where duly justified;

(d) arise from legal and budgetary commitments entered into by Member States in accordance with Article 4 of this Regulation;

(e) concern projects implemented in accordance with Article 8 of this Regulation;

(f) comply with specific Community rules, where those rules apply.

Article 6

Eligible expenditure related to certain actions

1. Expenditure incurred on new control technologies shall be eligible to the extent that it complies with Annex II and it is used for monitoring and control of fishing activities, as declared by the Member State concerned.

2. Expenditure incurred on the purchase and modernisation of aircraft and vessels shall be eligible to the extent that it complies with Annex III and it is used for monitoring and control of fishing activities, as declared by the Member State concerned, for at least 25 % of their activity.

3. Expenditure incurred on training and exchange programmes and on seminars and media tools shall be eligible to the extent that it complies with Annex IV. Such expenditure may cover, *inter alia*:

- (a) fisheries surveillance methodology;
- (b) Community legislation governing the Common Fisheries Policy and, in particular, control;
- (c) the use of fisheries control techniques;
- (d) the implementation by Member States of the applicable control system, in accordance with the Common Fisheries Policy rules.

*Article 7***Non-eligible expenditure**

1. Expenditure shall not be eligible if incurred before January 1 of the year in which the annual fisheries control programme is submitted to the Commission.
2. Value added tax (VAT) shall not be eligible for reimbursement.
3. An indicative list of non-eligible expenditure items is set out in Annex V.

*Article 8***Implementation of projects**

1. Projects shall be started and completed in accordance with the schedule laid down in the annual fisheries control programme.
2. The schedule shall state the foreseen date of commencement and termination of projects.

*Article 9***Non-implementation and delay of projects**

When a Member State decides not to implement all or part of the projects for which a financial contribution has been granted, or a delay occurs, it shall immediately inform the Commission in writing, stating:

- (a) the implications for its annual fisheries control programme, including those of a financial nature;
- (b) the reasons for the delay or non-implementation;
- (c) the foreseen new implementation time frame.

*Article 10***Advances**

1. At the reasoned request of a Member State, the Commission may grant an advance for each project of up to 50 % of the financial contribution granted in the decision provided for in Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006. The amount of the advance shall be deducted from any interim payment as well as from the final payment of the financial contribution for that project to the concerned Member State.

2. The request by the Member State shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the contract between the relevant administration and the supplier.

3. If a binding legal commitment is not made by the competent authority of a Member State within the period laid down in Article 4 of this Regulation, any advance granted shall be repaid forthwith.

*Article 11***Claims for reimbursement**

1. Member States shall submit to the Commission their claims for reimbursement within nine months of the date on which expenditure was incurred.

2. Claims for reimbursement shall include the items listed in Annex VI and shall be drafted in accordance with the form set out in Annex VII.

3. When submitting claims for reimbursement, Member States shall verify and certify that the expenditure has been incurred in compliance with the conditions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 861/2006, this Regulation and in the decision provided for in Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006, and with Community legislation on the award of public contracts. The claim shall include a statement concerning the accuracy and veracity of the transmitted accounts, in accordance with the form set out in Annex VII.

4. Claims for an amount of less than EUR 20 000 shall not be processed, unless duly justified. Claims may be regrouped.

5. Claims for projects which were not completed in accordance with the schedule referred to in Article 8 of this Regulation may be accepted only where the delay is duly justified. Where such claims are not accepted, the Community appropriations shall be de-committed.

6. If the Commission considers that the claim does not comply with the conditions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 861/2006, in this Regulation, in the decision provided for in Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006, or with Community legislation on the award of public contracts, it shall request the Member State to submit its observations on the matter within a time limit. If the examination confirms non-compliance, the Commission shall refuse to reimburse all or part of the expenditure at issue and, where appropriate, request reimbursement of undue payments.

*Article 12***Currency**

1. Fisheries control programmes, claims for reimbursement of expenditure and claims for payment of advances shall be expressed in euro.

2. Reimbursement shall be made in euro on the basis of the exchange rate published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* of the day on which the payment order or recovery order is drawn up by the authorising department of the Commission.

3. Member States not participating in the third stage of Economic and Monetary Union shall specify the exchange rate used.

*Article 13***Audits and financial corrections**

Member States shall provide the Commission and the Court of Auditors with any information those institutions may request for the audits and financial corrections referred to Article 28 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006.

*Article 14***Reports from the Member States**

1. Member States shall send the Commission information enabling it to verify the use made of the financial contribution and to assess the impact on control, inspection and surveillance activities of the measures provided for in this Regulation.

2. Member States shall also:

(a) By 31 March each year, submit to the Commission an intermediate assessment report on their fisheries control programme for the previous year covering the following:

- (i) the projects completed and the rate of execution of the fisheries control programme;

(ii) a forecast of claims for reimbursement for the current and following year;

(iii) the impact of the projects on the fisheries control programmes, by applying the indicators listed in the programme;

(iv) any adjustments made to the original fisheries control programme.

(b) By 31 March 2014, submit to the Commission a final assessment report covering the following:

(i) the projects completed;

(ii) the cost of projects;

(iii) the impact of the fisheries control programmes, by applying the indicators listed in the programmes;

(iv) any adjustments made to the original fisheries control programmes;

(v) the impact of the financial contribution on fisheries control programmes over the whole period 2007 to 2013.

*Article 15***Transitional provisions**

As of 1 January 2007, claims for reimbursement relating to the financial contribution for expenditure approved on the basis of Decisions 95/527/EC, 2001/431/EC and 2004/465/EC shall be submitted in accordance with Annexes VI and VII to this Regulation.

*Article 16***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 11 April 2007.

For the Commission

Joe BORG

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Description of means available to the Member State for fisheries monitoring and control

The description of means available to the Member State for fisheries control, as referred to in Article 3(2)(d) of this Regulation, shall include the following:

- (a) a brief description of the administrative bodies in charge of fisheries control at national, regional and local level;
- (b) a brief description of human resources, equipments (in particular the number of vessels, aircraft and helicopters available) and main actions undergone the year before to fulfil the duties under the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy;
- (c) the yearly budget allocated to fisheries control, expressed in euro with details on investments and on running costs of means used for fisheries control (data by category, including human resources).

ANNEX II

Indicative list of eligible expenditure items relating to the implementation of control technologies

The following expenditure is considered eligible:

- (a) Purchase of, installation and technical assistance for, computer technology and setting up of IT networks, including remote sensing capability, in order to allow efficient and secure data exchange in connection with monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities. Expenditure incurred on technical assistance is covered during two years as from the installation.
- (b) Purchase and installation of:
 - (i) Automatic localisation devices enabling vessels to be monitored at a distance by a fisheries monitoring centre through a vessel monitoring system (VMS);
 - (ii) Electronic recording and reporting devices, allowing electronic transmission of data related to fishing activities.

Devices must be in conformity with the requirements laid down by the relevant Community rules.

- (c) Purchase of personal computers, tablet PCs and Personal digital assistants (PDAs) designed to store and process data related to fishing activities.
- (d) Pilot projects relating to new technologies on the control of fisheries activities and their implementation.

ANNEX III

Indicative list of eligible expenditure items relating to the purchase and modernisation of aircraft and vessels used for fisheries control purposes

The following expenditure is considered eligible:

- (a) Fixed wing aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and helicopters and their equipment designed for fisheries control purposes. In particular, detection, communication and navigation equipment and software which is installed on board and which is a part of vessels or aircraft used for inspection and surveillance of fisheries activities and that enable data exchange between the vessels or aircraft and the fisheries control authorities;
- (b) Equipment replacing obsolete equipment designed to improve efficiency for fisheries control. The cost incurred in modernizing the engine room, wheelhouse boarding and launching facilities is also eligible;
- (c) Boarding boats (such as seariders and RIBs), including installed equipment, engines, launching davits and cranes (inclusive of hydraulic systems and installation), changes to the main vessel in order to adapt to the boarding boats (such as reinforcement of the deck and superstructure);
- (d) Major items for the propulsion system of the vessel, such as propeller systems, gear boxes, new main engines and auxiliary engines;
- (e) Equipment securing the confidentiality of communications such as encryption equipment and scramblers;
- (f) Water-proofed Personal Computers installed on board.

ANNEX IV

Indicative list of eligible expenditure items relating to training and exchange programmes, seminars and media tools

- (a) The following expenditure is considered eligible:
 - (i) Renting of lecture rooms;
 - (ii) Purchase or hiring of equipment used for training and seminars;
 - (iii) Fees of trainers not acting in their capacity as Member State or Community civil servants;
 - (iv) Travel and subsistence costs incurred by inspectors, public prosecutors, judges and fishermen attending the courses as well as by training staff;
 - (v) Any expenditure related to purchase or printing of material required for seminar, training or media such as books, posters, CDs, DVDs, videos, leaflets, banners.
- (b) Expenditure is eligible to the extent that it is eligible for reimbursement in conformity with relevant national rules.

ANNEX V

Indicative list of non-eligible expenditure items

The following expenditure is considered non-eligible:

- (a) Renting and leasing contracts;
 - (b) Equipment which is not used exclusively for fisheries control purposes, such as personal computers, laptops, scanners, printers, mobile phones, telephone standards, walkie-talkies, measure tapes, rules and other similar equipment, videos and cameras;
 - (c) Articles of clothing and footwear, such as uniforms, protecting suits, etc. and general personal equipment;
 - (d) Running and maintenance costs, such as telecommunication costs, financial interests, insurance premiums, fuel;
 - (e) Spare parts needed to keep in service any eligible item;
 - (f) Vehicles and motorbikes;
 - (g) Buildings and sites;
 - (h) Salaries and indemnities.
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ANNEX VI

Content of claims for reimbursement

Claims for reimbursement shall include the following:

- (a) A letter stating the total amount claimed for reimbursement. This letter shall clearly state:
 - (i) The Commission Decision to which it refers (relevant Article and Annex);
 - (ii) The amount claimed to the Commission in euro, VAT excluded;
 - (iii) The type of claim (pre-finance, interim payment, final payment);
 - (iv) The bank account to which the transfer should be done.
 - (b) A statement of expenditure, using the form established in Annex VII (one per Commission Decision).
 - (c) A list including the following information:
 - (i) The name(s) of the project(s) and reference to the annual fisheries control programme(s) on which it (they) was (were) included;
 - (ii) The reference of the contract to which invoices are related to;
 - (iii) A list of the enclosed invoices related to the project (number of invoices and amounts, VAT excluded).
 - (d) With regard to each project for which reimbursement is claimed:
 - (i) Original or certified copy of invoices;
 - (ii) If invoices are not quoted in euro, the exchange rate applied;
 - (iii) The original or certified copy of, the proof of payment of each invoice enclosed;
 - (iv) A document stating future instalments (where applicable) and their foreseen payment dates;
 - (v) Certified copy of the contract related to the invoice;
 - (vi) The yearly use of the vessel, aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle used for fisheries control, in percentage terms and in days;
 - (vii) Information on public procurement: the photocopy of the tender notices published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* shall be enclosed. If notices have not been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, the beneficiary shall certify that the Community legislation on public procurements has been respected and shall justify why Community procedures have not been followed. Expenditure incurred on vessels and aircraft to be used fully or partly for fisheries control purposes cannot benefit from any exemption from Community procurement rules with reference to Article 296 of the Treaty establishing the European Community;
 - (viii) A brief description of the action, stating in detail what has been achieved, accompanied by a brief assessment of the impact of the investment on fisheries control and surveillance. A forecast of the future use of the items shall also be included;
 - (ix) In the case of expenditure on pilot projects or media tools, the final report or document should be included;
 - (x) In case of training and seminars, any relevant information on the subject, speakers, participants, shall be mentioned.
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ANNEX VII

Statement of expenditure

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN CARRYING OUT THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONTROL, INSPECTION AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

As provided for in Article 11 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 391/2007

Commission Decision of/No _____
National reference (if any) _____

I, the undersigned _____ representing the authority _____ responsible for the relevant financial and control procedures, hereby certify, after verification, that all amounts shown below represent the total cost, paid in 20 __, in accordance with relevant national legislation, with regard to projects approved and referring to actions set out in Article 8(a) of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006:

(a) Computer technology and IT networks	_____	EUR ⁽¹⁾
(b) Remote control technology devices and electronic recording and reporting devices	_____	EUR
(c) Pilot projects on new technologies	_____	EUR
(d) Training and exchange programmes of control civil servants	_____	EUR
(e) Pilot inspection and observer schemes	_____	EUR
(f) Assessment of public expenditure in the control area	_____	EUR
(g) Seminars and media	_____	EUR
(h) Acquisition and modernisation of vessels and aircraft	_____	EUR
	TOTAL	_____ EUR

I also certify that the statement of the expenditure is accurate and the application for payment takes account of any recoveries made.

The operations were carried out in accordance with the objectives laid down in Council Regulation No 861/2006 and in Commission Regulation (EC) No 391/2007, and with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002, in particular as regards:

- Compliance with the conditions laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 391/2007 and in the Community legislation concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works, supply and service contracts;
- Application of management and control procedures aimed at verifying the delivery of the products and services co-financed and the reality of expenditure claimed and at preventing, detecting and correcting irregularities, pursuing fraud, and recovering unduly paid amounts.

Finally, I certify that:

- I have/have not ⁽²⁾ received an advance payment for action(s) _____ referred to above.

The statement of expenditure is accurate.

Date,

Name capitals, stamp, and position and signature of competent authority

⁽¹⁾ Exact amount to two decimal places.

⁽²⁾ Delete as appropriate.