

COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 November 1973

on the submission of applications for assistance from the European Social Fund

(73/434/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2396/71 ⁽¹⁾ of 8 November 1971 implementing the Council Decision of 1 February 1971 on the reform of the European Social Fund, and in particular Article 13 thereof;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Social Fund Committee;

Whereas pursuant to Article 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2396/71 of 8 November 1971, only the Member States shall be competent to forward to the Commission applications for assistance from the European Social Fund; whereas these applications must be submitted prior to the carrying out of the operations inherent in the projects to which they relate;

Whereas within the framework of the new European Social Fund the provisions of Article 5 should help in determining and implementing at a Community level as coherent a policy as possible in the field of employment; whereas in this light the provisions in question imply that the Commission shall have enough time to assess, with full knowledge of the facts, the applications which are submitted to it and to act thereon within the prescribed time;

Whereas, irrespective of exceptional and urgent cases it is consequently necessary that each application for assistance from the European Social Fund shall be submitted to the Commission not later than three months before the commencement of operations inherent in the projects;

Whereas the implementation of the new European Social Fund and the concern to avoid any break in continuity in its activity has had the result, during a certain period, that, in spite of all their efforts, the Member States have not been able, in every case, to submit a formal application for assistance prior to

the carrying out of operations inherent in the projects; whereas this situation, about which the Fund Committee was rapidly informed, makes it necessary to apply practical measures of a temporary nature,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

From 1 May 1974 applications for assistance from the European Social Fund forwarded by the Member States in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2396/71 of 8 November 1971 must, irrespective of exceptional and urgent cases, be submitted to the Commission not later than three months prior to the carrying out of operations inherent in the projects which are the subject of these applications.

Article 2

1. In derogation from the provisions of Article 1, applications submitted by the Member States after the date of notification of this Decision and before 1 May 1974 shall be taken into consideration on the condition that they are submitted to the Commission prior to the carrying out of the operations inherent in the projects which are the subject of the applications in question.

2. Applications now before the Commission departments shall be taken into consideration in as far as it is necessary to ensure the achievement of the European Social Fund objectives and to guarantee the continuity of the Fund's activities.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 28 November 1973.

For the Commission

The President

François-Xavier ORTOLI

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 249, 10. 11. 1971, p. 54.