

**26 June 2002**

## **OBJECTIVE 3 PMC CHAIR'S ORAL REPORT**

### **Opening Remarks**

I will try to avoid duplicating what's in the main report and concentrate on the main issues discussed at the Committee's meeting on 12 June.

### **Programme Progress**

The Committee was satisfied with the progress that had been achieved on the programme as detailed in the Programme Monitoring Report.

- The Committee heard that as at 30 April 272 projects had been approved with £28m (€46m) grant allocated. This represents 35% of the total budget available for the programme to 2006, and the programme was still on target to commit £38m in grant before the end of 2002.
- It is anticipated that the target for the end of 2002 to avoid de-commitment will be reached very soon. (Against the "N+2" target of £7.8m a total of £6.2m could now be claimed from the commission).
- The Committee also considered a report on the predicted outputs of approved projects against the target outputs. This report was produced using figures from WEFO's new database.

The commitments at Measure level are being kept under review and a paper will be provided to the September PMC with proposals for addressing under-commitment in some Measures.

Comments from the Committee were invited on the draft Annual Implementation Report for year 2001 before its formal submission to the Commission at the end of June. It reports on the implementation activities that took place during 2001, and the commitments and payments from the start of the programme to 31 December 2001. Informal feedback on the report from the Commission was favourable.

The Committee also considered a report on the gender balance of the Objective 3 Partnership Boards. 4 of the 8 partnerships had achieved the target of at least 40% representation and

WEFO will work with the other partnerships and agree an action plan to address any shortfall.