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that those for which funding is uncertain, because of the traditional percentage of arrears, be temporarily set aside in the Stand-by programme. Therefore, Agencies would be able to implement all activities in the Regular programme from the beginning of the year. Activities on Stand-by would be executed as funds became available, from the payment of arrears, from delays in the implementation of regular programme activities or from other sources. (see Paper VI for details).

The main merit of a permanent budgetary structure such as the stand-by programme is to provide the means for setting aside activities of lower priority without imposing the need to extinguish them. The device would also be useful in periods when, for any reason, a programme is being down-sized. It would be possible then to include in the Stand-by programme all activities that appeared unfunded either because of the lowering of the budgetary constraint or the traditional rate of arrears. As long as the activities in the stand-by programme are listed in order of priority, Member States would have the assurance that, as funds become available, the highest priority activity will be the first to be implemented.

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