

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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DOCUMENT 1-544/79/ANNEX

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the proposal from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-372/79)
for a Regulation amending for the second time
Regulation (EEC) No. 222/77 on Community transit

Luxembourg, 4.2.1980

Mr J. DELORS

Chairman of the Committee
on Economic and Monetary Affairs
European Parliament

LUXEMBOURG

Dear Mr Delors,

At its meeting of 23 and 24 January 1980, the Committee on Budgetary Control considered the proposal¹ from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Regulation amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No. 222/77 on Community transit². At this meeting the committee adopted the following opinion³:

In its examination of the proposal, the committee concentrated its attention on:

1. aspects relating to the protection of own-resources;
2. possible consequences of the abolition of certain frontier controls which are not in practice stringent;
3. changes in the statutory provisions on the Community transit procedure which might weaken the existing protection of Community revenue;
4. the lessons to be drawn in this context from incidents such as the 'Rotterdam-Roubaix-Como Affair'.

The Committee on Budgetary Control is fully aware of the psychological and in some cases also practical importance of ensuring the maximum possible freedom of movement of goods within the Community, and recognizes that this has, from the outset, been an aim of the Community.

¹ Doc. 1-372/79

² OJ No. L 38, 9.2.1977, p. 1

³ Present: Mr Aigner, chairman; Mr Dankert and Mrs Boserup, vice-chairmen; Mr Alber, Mr Antoniozzi, Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mr Notenboom, Mr Patterson (deputizing for Mr Battersby), Mr Ryan and Mr Simpson (deputizing for Mr Price).

However, having regard to

1. recent incidents in which goods in transit have been damaged;
2. the risk that the collection of certain own-resources may be jeopardized;
3. the disadvantages to the prestige of the Community which will arise if a relaxation of existing procedures which are already fraught with shortcomings, leads to new cases of fraud;
4. the fact that the penal codes of the Community countries have not yet been harmonized,

feels bound to put on record its concern that greater freedom of movement of goods is not without risks.

In particular the committee recognizes the expediency of simplifying to the utmost the verification of controls of goods manufactured within the Community and transported within the Community, but draws attention to the need for adequate controls on the movement of goods which do not originate in the Community, on which the appropriate duties or levies have not yet been paid and

1. are transiting through the Community and
2. being transported within the Community.

When controls are effected on goods which do not originate within the Community, effective guarantee measures, the sealing of vehicles and the system of frontier passage certificates should be applied.

The Community Institutions must also not overlook the possible loss of revenue to certain Member States if goods on which high duties are payable cross Community frontiers without proper control.

It appears desirable to request the Court of Auditors to draw up a detailed report on aspects of the transit procedures connected with the control requirements and setting out recommendations for measures necessary to protect the Community's own-resources and prevent or discover cases of evasion - in particular evasions of a multinational nature perpetrated by organized national or international criminals.

Having regard to these fundamental points with a bearing on auditing and control, the following paragraphs might be included in the resolution contained in the report by Mr von Wogau.

The European Parliament,

- calls upon the Commission and Member States to centralize more effectively measures to combat fraudulent practices;
- stresses the great importance of special control measures for goods in respect of which there is a risk of fraud and the need to notify a minimum percentage rate for consignments requiring physical control;
- urges that better information be provided to all the controlling bodies responsible for monitoring the detailed application of agricultural regulations.

Yours sincerely,

Heinrich AIGNER
pp Piet Dankert
Vice-Chairman of the Committee
on Budgetary Control

