



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SESSION DOCUMENTS

English Edition

3 December 1990

A3-0344/90

INTERIM REPORT

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on relations between the European Community
and the EFTA countries in the area
of transport policy

Rapporteur: Mr Günter LÜTTGE

DOC_EN\PR\96135
hs-drh

PE 144.433/fin.

A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

*	= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading	**II	= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment
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At the sitting of 8 October 1990 the President of the European Parliament announced that he had referred the motion for a resolution by Mr Estgen on relations between the Community and the EFTA countries in the area of transport policy (Doc. B 3-1533/90) to the Committee on Transport and Tourism as the committee responsible and the Committee on External Economic Relations for its opinion.

At its meeting of 21 December 1989 the Committee on Transport and Tourism had already appointed Mr LÜTTGE rapporteur on this subject. At its meeting on 27 November 1990 to incorporate the abovementioned resolution in Mr Lüttge's report.

At its meeting of 27 November 1990 it considered the draft interim report. At the latter meeting it adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Amaral (Chairman), N. Christensen (Vice-chairman), Lüttge (rapporteur), Coimbra Martins (for Stamoulis), McIntosh, Müller, de Piccoli (for Porrazzini), Romera i Alcazar, Sapena Grannell, Sarlis, Simpson, Siso Cruellas (for Fantini), Stewart, Visser and van der Waal.

The Committee on External Economic Relations has not delivered an opinion.

The report was tabled on 3 December 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part session at which the report is to be considered.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

On relations between the European Community and the EFTA countries in the area of transport policy.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Estgen on relations between the European Community and the EFTA countries in the area of transport policy (Doc. B 3-1533/90),
 - having regard to the interim report of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A3-0344/90),
- A. whereas completion of the internal market in the area of transport makes it necessary to reorganize external relations in that sector, with the aim of mutual benefit and devising solutions to important current matters such as the problem of Community transit through third countries,
 - B. whereas in view of the efforts to create a European economic area, cooperation between the European Community and the EFTA countries in transport policy is of considerable mutual importance,
 - C. whereas the recent political developments in Central and Eastern Europe will have a significant impact on the development and pattern of traffic movements in Europe,
 - D. whereas the Community should determine the plans for infrastructure projects of Community interest in the transport sector with the aim inter alia, of integrating those geographical areas which are either remote or at the periphery of the Community and of reducing, in cooperation with any interested third countries, the cost involved in transit operations.
 - E. whereas it is therefore advisable for all the countries of Europe to coordinate their transport infrastructure policies, particularly with a view to coordinating planning of the main European transport links and jointly laying down priorities for the implementation of major projects of interest to Europe as a whole,
1. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with the European Parliament and with the participation of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, to convene a European conference on transport with the aim of formulating the principles of a European transport and transport infrastructure policy for the next twenty years, on the basis of an overall transport plan reflecting a commitment to environmental protection, together with proposals for funding, e.g. through the PHARE programme;
 2. Takes the view that
 - (a) This conference should be organized and carefully prepared by the Commission's departments, Parliament and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport using funds available in the budget for such purposes;

- (b) the preparatory work should be coordinated by a steering committee comprising the responsible member of the Commission, the President-in-Office of the Council and the chairman and the responsible rapporteurs of the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism;
 - (c) the topics to be covered by the conference should be outlined in a general transport policy paper¹, and in contributions on the development of transport infrastructure within the European Community², and in relations with the EFTA countries³ and with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe⁴;
3. Suggests that the above-mentioned steering committee should designate the participants for the conference with particular consideration being given to:
- (a) the European Community institutions (Commission, Council, Parliament, Economic and Social Committee, European Investment Bank),
 - (b) the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly,
 - (c) the UN Economic Commission for Europe,
 - (d) the representatives of the governments of all European countries responsible for transport infrastructure policy,
 - (e) international financial institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank,
 - (f) The International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Community of European Railways,
 - (g) the International Road Transport Union (IRU),
 - (h) the International Union for Inland Navigation (UNIF),
 - (i) the Association of European Airlines (AEA),
 - (j) the Organization of Shipowners' Associations of the European Communities (CAACE),
 - (k) the Union of Industries of the European Community,
 - (l) the European Trade Union Confederation,
 - (m) the European Federation for Transport and the Environment,
 - (n) the European Transport User's Association.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe might be involved as joint organizer if this organization shows an interest in this respect and could make a better contribution to the success of the Conference under this arrangement;

- 4. Suggests that the conference be held in Prague in the second half of the year;
- 5. Instructs the committee responsible and Parliament's Secretariat to prepare the views which the European Parliament will put forward at the conference by drawing up the relevant reports in good time;

¹ See AMARAL report, Doc. A3-306/90

² Rapporteur: Mr ROMERA I ALCAZAR

³ Rapporteur: Mr LÜTTGE

⁴ Rapporteur: Mr ANASTASSOPOULOS

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council of the European Communities, the governments of the Member States of EFTA and the Central and East European States, the European Transport Ministers' Conference, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The current political situation in Europe has opened up new scope for action and made a large, united, democratic Europe a genuine possibility. This means thinking in terms of larger units than the traditional nation states. Solutions must be sought at the level of supranational European groupings; the European Community, EFTA and the organizational structures chosen by the democratically elected governments in Central and Eastern Europe will determine events in future. A report on transport policy relations between the European Community and EFTA must be set in this context. The densest network of transport links is certainly the one connecting the member states of these two groups. However, in view of the rate of development in the Central and Eastern European countries, this subject can no longer be properly dealt with without involving these countries in plans for the future.

2. This is especially true of the area of transport infrastructure policy. The transformation of the political landscape and the opening of the two economic blocks to one another will significantly change the existing pattern of traffic movements and give rise to new ones. If European transport policy, rather than lagging behind these developments, is to fulfil its task of shaping future developments in the awareness of its responsibility towards man and the environment, the political course must be set now.

3. The European Community has done valuable preliminary work on coordinating the transport infrastructure planning of the Member States. The European Parliament has made a significant contribution to this within its scope for action on budgetary policy. This is why the institutions of the European Community have the right to take political initiatives leading to long-term coordination of the planning of the main European transport routes - including the timetable for essential projects. Coordination of this kind naturally requires participation by the responsible authorities from all the European countries. It will only succeed if the extensive preliminary work, carried out not only by the European Community but by various other international bodies and organizations⁵, is embodied in appropriate programmes of action.

4. The proposal to hold a pan-European transport infrastructure conference in response to this political challenge, which was first put forward by the rapporteur in his working document of 4 June 1990⁶, was well received by the Committee on Transport and the Commissioner responsible for transport policy, Mr van Miert, has expressed great interest in it. A conference of this kind could provide answers to many questions which will be the subject of the Transport Committee's reports on the European Community's transport policy relations with the EFTA countries and the Central and Eastern European countries⁷ respectively.

⁵ In particular, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

⁶ PE 140.289

⁷ Rapporteur: Mr ANASTASSOPOULOS - see working document PE 140.287

5. It would seem advisable to keep the political decision on holding the conference quite separate from the preparation of its content. This interim report has therefore restricted itself to calling on the Commission, in cooperation with the European Parliament, to take the initiative on holding a conference of this kind. Prague, the capital of one of the new democracies in the heart of Europe and future meeting point of many of the new traffic routes, would be a particularly symbolic venue for the conference.

6. The positions which the European Parliament will put forward at the conference could well be based on some of the reports due to be tabled by the Committee on Transport in 1991. The second half of 1991 would therefore be a suitable time to propose for holding the conference.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure

by **Mr ESTGEN**

on **relations between the Community and the EFTA countries in the area of transport policy**

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the efforts being made to create a European economic area,
- B. mindful that to this end an efficient transport programme must be drawn up for Europe as a whole,
- C. whereas the time has therefore come to promote practical cooperation between the Community and the EFTA countries in the various sectors of transport policy, including transport infrastructure,
 - 1. Calls on the Commission to submit to Parliament and the Council a detailed report on the present state of transport links between the Community Member States and the member states of EFTA;
 - 2. Calls on the Council to give the Commission a mandate for negotiations between the Community and the EFTA countries concerning those aspects of transport policy which can be jointly regulated in connection with the completion of the internal market;
 - 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

