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**\*\*I**

## R E P O R T

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy

on the Commission proposal for a Council decision on the adoption of a programme of Community action on the subject of the vocational training of customs officials (The MATTHAEUS programme)

(COM(90) 605 final - C3-0026/91 - SYN 315)

Rapporteur: Mr Dieter ROGALLA

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*	= 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
**I	= Cooperation procedure (first reading)	***	= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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By letter of 17 January 1991 the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 100a of the EEC Treaty, on the Commission proposal for a Council decision on the adoption of a programme of Community action on the vocational training of customs officials (the MATTHAEUS programme).

At the sitting of 25 January 1991 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

At its meeting of 6 February 1991 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy appointed Mr Rogalla rapporteur.

At its meetings of 27 February - 1 March 1991 it considered the Commission proposal and draft report.

On 28 February 1991 it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Beumer (chairman); Rogalla (rapporteur); Barton, Beazley, Bofill Abeilhe, Cassidy, Caudron, Cox, Fitzgerald (for Ruiz Mateos), Herman, Lataillade, Mattina, Metten, Pinxten, Read, Roumeliotis, Siso Cruellas, Smith A. (for Seal) and von Wogau.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately.

The report was tabled on 28 February 1991.

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

A

Commission proposal for a Council decision  
on the adoption of a programme of Community action  
on the vocational training of customs officials  
(The MATTHAEUS Programme)

Commission text<sup>1</sup>

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)  
Recital 6

Whereas the programmes already established in this sphere by each of the national administrations are not sufficient to fulfil the objectives pursued; whereas it is consequently essential to reinforce national efforts through joint action to increase the awareness of customs officials of the increasing Community dimension of their task and of the necessity of close collaboration with each other;

Whereas the programmes already established in this sphere by each of the national administrations are not sufficient to fulfil the objectives pursued; whereas it is consequently essential to reinforce national efforts through joint action to increase the awareness of customs officials of the increasing Community dimension of their task and of the necessity of close collaboration with each other; and whereas particular consideration should be given in the joint action to customs officials from the new German Länder;

(Amendment No. 2)  
Recital 10a (new)

Whereas the Commission should hold courses in the less common languages of the Community in the Member States in which they are spoken and in cooperation with national customs administrations;

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<sup>1</sup> For full text see COM(90) 605 final - OJ No. C 13, 19.1.1991, p. 12

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 3)

Recital 12

Whereas training actions supplementary to the exchange of officials between administrations are essential to the achievement of the required objectives; whereas these actions might consist of training seminars and the implementation of common training programmes to be taught in Member State customs schools;

Whereas training actions supplementary to the exchange of officials between administrations are essential to the achievement of the required objectives; whereas these actions might consist of training seminars and the implementation of common training programmes to be taught in Member State customs schools; and whereas consideration should also be given to establishing a Joint Centre for the Training of Customs Officials in the European Community;

(Amendment No. 4)

Recital 14

Whereas the seminars should concern all customs officials, especially customs school trainers, officials who implement Community law and officials fighting against all types of fraud,

Whereas the seminars should concern all customs officials of all categories, especially customs school trainers, officials who implement Community law and officials fighting against all types of fraud, and whereas the number of officials taking part in the exchange should be increased annually, provided that extra participants can be accommodated on the training courses and the exchange programme;

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 5)  
Recital 17

Whereas for the implementation of the MATTHAEUS programme it is advisable to predetermine the division of expenses of this programme between the Commission and the Member States, in accordance with the dispositions of the Commission's Communication; whereas consequently this division might be carried out by assigning the expenses relating to the language training of their officials to the Member States, and the expenses relating to the travel and accommodation of officials participating in the exchanges and officials required to attend seminars in Member States other than their own to the Commission;

Whereas for the implementation of the MATTHAEUS programme it is advisable to predetermine the division of expenses of this programme between the Commission and the Member States, in accordance with the dispositions of the Commission's Communication; whereas consequently this division might be carried out by assigning the expenses relating to the language training of their officials to the Member States, and the expenses relating to the travel and accommodation of officials participating in the exchanges and officials required to attend seminars in Member States other than their own to the Commission; and whereas care should be taken, when calculating travelling expenses and daily allowances, that the normal costs allowed under civil service regulations are actually covered;

(Amendment No. 6)  
Article 5

The Member States shall establish linguistic training for their officials who are likely to participate in the MATTHAEUS Programme. This training should be of an intensive and ongoing nature. It should concern all Community languages.

The Member States shall establish linguistic training for their officials who are likely to participate in the MATTHAEUS Programme. This training should be of an intensive and ongoing nature. It should concern all Community languages.

Courses in the less common languages of the Community may be held for the benefit of all interested exchange officials in the Member States in which they are spoken.

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 7)  
Article 7(2)

2. In carrying out its task, the Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the representative of the Commission.  
(Rest unchanged)

2. In carrying out its task, the Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of representatives of the Member States and representatives of professional associations in the Community which are recognized as being representative.  
(Rest unchanged)

**DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

(Cooperation procedure: first reading)

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament  
on the Commission proposal for a Council decision  
on the adoption of a programme of Community action on the  
vocational training of customs officials (the MATTHAEUS Programme)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(90) 605 final-SYN 315)<sup>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 100a of the EEC Treaty (C3-0026/91),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A3-0044/91),
  - having regard to the Commission position on the amendments adopted by Parliament,
1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendments and in accordance with the vote thereon;
  2. Calls on the Commission to amend its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 149(3) of the EEC Treaty;
  3. Calls on the Council to incorporate Parliament's amendments in the common position that it adopts in accordance with Article 149(2)(a) of the EEC Treaty;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 13, 19.1.1991, p. 12



## B

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Commission proposal is in principle acceptable. It constitutes the Community action programme for the further vocational training of officials in the Member States' customs administrations in preparation for the completion of the single market.

Discussions between the rapporteur and representatives from the customs authorities and from organizations representing customs officials revealed that the exchange programme, involving 578 officials from the twelve customs administrations, was regarded as a success. It should be stressed that the majority of the officials taking part in the exchange were actively involved in the work of the station to which they were assigned: 70% worked under the guidance of an official belonging to the host administration; 5% worked as full officials, since they had a good command of the language spoken in the host country and were allowed to sign the administrative documents relating to the tasks allocated to them; 25% acquired a thorough knowledge of the working methods and administrative structure of the station to which they were assigned.

It is essential for the programme to continue, so that customs officials can be trained for the tasks which they will be required to carry out after 1993 and customs officials and administrations in the Community be encouraged to cooperate more widely.

2. A criticism to be made of the proposal is that Annex IV thereto was not translated into all official languages. The Members - the representatives of the people in the countries united by the Community - must, of all things, be able to consider the budgetary implications in their own language. If the text cannot be understood, the Arabic numerals, although comprehensible to all Community citizens, are of little help!

3. The justification for the individual amendments, where these are called for, is as follows:

#### Amendment to recital 6:

Particular consideration should be given in the implementation of the programme to customs officials from the new German Länder, since they are unfamiliar with the structures of both the German federal and the Community customs administrations.

#### Amendment to recital 10 and to Article 5:

The holding of courses in the less common languages in the Member States in which they are spoken has the advantage of increasing the efficiency of the course and - from the point of view of the twelve customs administrations - of reducing the cost. So instead of twelve courses in Portuguese with only a small number of participants, only one course should be held with an adequate number of participants from all twelve Member States, in one place - for example, Viana do Castelo in Portugal.

Amendment to recital 12:

The Joint Centre for the Training of Customs Officials in the European Community should be established at an existing customs school. The existing customs schools in the Community and the customs authorities responsible for them could perhaps be asked whether they wish to assume responsibility for such a centre. This centre could at an appropriate time form the basis of a Community customs school.

Amendment to recital 14:

The implementation of the programme must involve all categories within customs administrations and increasing numbers of officials, since participation in the exchange programme should have a positive influence on career development.

Amendment to recital 17:

Officials taking part in the exchange must suffer no financial disadvantage as a result of their involvement in the programme.

Amendment to Article 7:

it is a constant concern of Community bodies that both staff and management should be involved in the drawing up of legislation which will affect them. The customs administrations - the employers, so to speak - are involved via the representatives from the Member States. The social dimension and the social symmetry of the Community require that the customs officials' representatives - professional associations recognized at Community level - should also be involved.

4. In allocating funds to the various aspects of the programme (Annex IV), the Commission should consider whether the advisory committee (Article 7 of the proposal) really needs to meet on a monthly basis, or whether a meeting every two months would suffice. In the latter case, ECU 54 000 would be saved, which would enable a further thirteen officials to take part in an exchange.