

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

— COM(82) 225 final

Brussels, 22nd July 1982

Proposal for a

REGULATION (EEC) OF THE COUNCIL

on the granting of limited financial support in the field of transport infrastructure

(presented by the Commission to the Council)

COM(82) 225 final

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the
granting of limited financial support in
the field of transport infrastructure

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. On 5th July 1976 the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Regulation on support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure^{*)}.

On 15 February 1980 the Commission adopted an amendment to this proposal so as to extend the scope of the Regulation to include infrastructure projects in third countries.

The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have delivered favourable opinions on both the proposal and the amendment.

2. The proposal for a Regulation on support for projects of Community interest has been discussed at various Council meetings. In November 1978 the Council asked the Commission to provide further information on the short-comingsⁱⁿ /transport infrastructures, the Community's financing systems and possible methods of evaluating "Community interest".

The Commission sent the Council two reports, one on bottlenecks and possible modes of finance and the other on criteria for the evaluation of projects of Community interest in response to its request. The Council took note of these reports on 4 December 1980 and 15 December 1981 respectively.

3. At its meeting on 15 December 1981 the Council expressed its desire for the advancement of preparatory work leading to the introduction of a system of financial support.

*) OJ No C 207, 2.9.1976

The Commission was asked as experiment to apply to a limited number of specific projects, the methods of assessing the Community interest of infrastructure projects recommended in the report on the criteria for the evaluation of Community support.

The Council also gave guidance to the Permanent Representatives Committee for its further examination of the proposal for a Regulation on financial support.

4. The Community's special interest in projects relating to routes carrying a large volume of international long-distance traffic of vital importance to the Community's economic development is borne out by the work undertaken so far on infrastructure (the abovementioned reports ; the discussions within the Transport Infrastructure Committee ; and Commission studies on traffic and project evaluation methods). The main interest of these projects lies in the fact that they will considerably reduce transport costs to users. Some of the projects have not yet reached the stage at which their execution could begin at once.

5. To ensure that the first limited tranche of funds in the 1982 Budget has the maximum practical effect, the Commission suggests that it be put to the following uses :

- (a) Contributions to specific essential improvements or to the construction of much-needed new sections on major international routes, chiefly on transalpine rail links to begin with. These improvements must be compatible with all the other - more substantial - long-term improvements possible on these links.
- (b) Contributions to work required ahead of actual execution of projects, as a means of expediting the decision-making process.

A list of projects which meet these criteria is attached by way of illustration.

6. The Commission hence considers it can justifiably propose that, as an experiment, a first tranche of financial support be granted from the Budget to expedite the implementation of projects which on the above criteria can easily be chosen on a geographical basis and do not require any additional economic calculation to demonstrate their genuine interest for the Community.

This experiment is in keeping with the proposal for a Regulation submitted by the Commission in 1976. An appropriate

decision-making process will be required in view of the nature of the experiment (limited and fixed amount of aid from the Budget ; projects to be selected according to very definite - principally geographical - criteria).

7. The Council is asked to adopt the attached proposal for a Regulation. But in view of the agreement signed on 30 June 1982 by the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, and in particular section IV(3), subparagraph c of that agreement, and having regard to the date of submission of this proposal, the Commission would point out that it will put up alternative proposals (transfers) if this one is not adopted before 31 October 1982.

LIST OF PROJECTS

1. Construction work

Plan to modernize the marshalling yard at Domodossola, a nodal point on north-south rail links. The execution of this project is part of a general modernization scheme (principally in Swiss territory) and can proceed without any prior decisions having to be taken on the implementation of large-scale projects (such as main tunnels). Project cost : approximately 80 million ECU.

2. Preparatory work following upon the decision in principle to execute projects

Project for the construction of a fixed cross-Channel link. The choice of design depends on the service which a fixed link could offer to the entire Community.

3. Determination of routes and preparatory analysis work

- (a) Technical surveys to determine the route of the Belfast-Dublin road link, especially in the border region ;
- (b) Preparation of improvement schemes for the road axis originating at Volos (Greece) with a view to the construction of adequate road connections between Greece and the rest of the Community ;
- (c) Preparatory work for the construction of the planned fixed link across the Straits of Messina.

4. Research directed towards the development of new means of transport

The recent progress in the field of conventional track-guided transport systems ("TGV", Advanced Passenger Train) is illustrated by the projects which have already been carried out or are in progress. In the field of non-conventional transport systems (e.g., magnetic levitation combined with linear induction motor), work has not progressed beyond the construction of test tracks and is being hampered by budgetary restrictions; particularly hard hit is the TRANSRAPID test track in Emsland (Federal Republic of Germany).

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION

on the granting of limited financial support
in the field of transport infrastructure

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Article 75 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas a proposal for a Regulation on support for projects of Community
interest in transport infrastructure has been submitted to the Council;

Whereas the Commission has undertaken the preparatory work called for by
the Council at its meeting on 23 November 1978;

Whereas a limited amount of financial support should be provided, in order
to assess how useful this might be in developing a transport network of
interest to the Community and the whole of the operational appropriation
included in the 1982 budget should be used;

Whereas in this experimental phase eligible projects must concern routes
of prime importance to Community traffic and must be urgent,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1

The Community may grant financial support for transport infrastructure projects by contributing towards the cost of:

- modernizing sections of, or stations on, transalpine rail links provided that the work in question is compatible with the long-term development alternatives for these links ;
- preparatory work which will speed up the transition to the construction phase of projects affecting traffic between Member States.

Article 2

The Commission, after consulting the Transport Infrastructure Committee set up under Decision of 78/174 (1), shall decide on the granting and the form of financial support in accordance with the eligibility criteria laid down in Article 1.

The amount of support shall not exceed 20% of the cost of the project.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

For the Council

The President

(1) OJ No L 54, 25.2.1978, p. 16.