

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

12 September 1979

DOCUMENT 1-298/79

ORAL QUESTION (0-29/79)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47A of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr SEEFELD, Mr ALBERS, Mr GABERT, Mr GATTO, Mr KEY, Mr KLINKENBORG and Mr LOO

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: European solutions to the problems of transit traffic in the Alpine region

In the resolution it adopted on 16 January 1979¹ on the basis of a report by its Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport, the European Parliament urged that priority be given to the following transport policy objectives which are of immediate importance:

- '- improvement of the situation of transit traffic through Austria and Switzerland, in particular by allocating road costs fairly, improving infrastructures and encouraging combined transport methods.'

On 12 June 1978 the Council of EEC Transport Ministers adopted a statement on the Austrian road traffic tax² in which it noted:

¹ OJ No. C 39, 12.2.1979, p.16
² 521st Council Meeting, Press Release, Doc. 731/78 (Presse 78)

'that the Commission will follow up, from the point of view of transit and in accordance with Community legislation and policy trends, in the field of infrastructure and market organization, the basic problems which arise in relation to other third countries too, will contribute to developing satisfactory solutions at the European level and will report back to the Council on possible action to be taken by the Community'.

1. What specific steps has the Commission taken so far in order to comply with the European Parliament's request and propose how the Community might contribute to the development of European solutions to the problem of ensuring smooth transit for road and rail traffic through the Alpine region?
2. Is it aware that Greek accession to the Community will exacerbate the problems of traffic infrastructure in the Alpine region (bottlenecks, an increase in the accident rate and damage to the environment), and that similar problems of transit traffic through Yugoslavia will also have to be considered?
3. What form of cooperation in the traffic sector does the Commission envisage with Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia to ensure the smoothest possible traffic flow between the various Member States of the Community and hence to promote trade?
4. Does it recognise that, first and foremost, such cooperation must include the planning, extension and funding of the traffic infrastructure and also cover questions of taxation, transit authorizations, the encouragement of combined transport and of commercial and technical cooperation between railway undertakings and, finally, a relaxation of frontier formalities?
5. When does the Commission intend to submit the report referred to in the abovementioned Council statement? Can it indicate the broad outlines of the proposed measures?