

TRANSPORT COUNCIL OF 8TH NOVEMBER 1984BACKGROUND NOTE

The main objective of the Council is to seek agreement on the implementation of the decisions in principle taken at the previous meeting of 10 May 1984.

Six files were examined on that occasion and an overall compromise was reached covering the agreement in principle of the Council on:

1. the regulation on a special measure in the field of transport infrastructures for the years 1983 and 1984
2. the increase in the Community quota for the next 5 years
3. the principal points to be incorporated in the draft Directive on weights and dimensions which the Council wishes to adopt before the end of this year
4. a resolution on a Community programme on road safety
5. a recommendation on strengthening cooperation between railway companies in the 10 Member States
6. certain conclusions relating to the revision of Community social legislation in road transport.

The "weights and dimensions" file is the one which raises the most difficulty. In particular the question is whether the Directive foreseen for the end of this year should or should not include a value for the maximum weight of the driving axle of haulage vehicles with 5 or 6 axles. One delegation is making this an indispensable condition. If the Council takes up this idea it will be necessary to reach an agreement on the value to be adopted for the weight of the driving axle. For the moment, there are still differences of opinion within the Council.

The Council should also reach agreement on the formula to be adopted for the distribution of Community quota authorizations for the coming years 7 and in particular resolve the problem of taking account of sea crossings in the method of calculation. 7

As far as the other files are concerned, on which the Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee where necessary have expressed their opinions in a favourable way, there are no further technical obstacles to formal adoption by the Council.

N.B. : For particular points see also MEMO N° 49/84 of 8 May 1984