
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-974/82

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Economic
and Monetary Affairs

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-556/82 - COM(82)
415 final) for a regulation on loans for projects
covered by exploration programmes for non-energy
mineral raw materials within the territories of
the Member States

Rapporteur: Mr D. SCHINZEL

Or. Fr.

PE 81.007/fin.

By letter of 9 August 1982, the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament on loans for projects covered by exploration programmes for non-energy mineral raw materials within the territories of the Member States (COM(82) 415 final).

On 13 September 1982, the President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Energy and Research for an opinion.

At its meeting of 21/22 September 1982, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Mr Schnizel rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 27/28 September and 23/24 November 1982.

At the latter meeting, the committee unanimously decided to recommend to Parliament that it adopt the Commission's proposal with the amendments given below.

The committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Moreau, chairman; Mr Schinzel, rapporteur; Mr von Bismarck, Mr Bonaccini, Mrs Desouches, Mr Giavazzi, Mr Herman, Mr Leonardi, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Mr Rogalla (deputizing for Mr Wagner) and Mr Welsh.

The explanatory statement will be given orally.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

The Committee on Energy and Research has decided to deliver an opinion orally.

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The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments to the Commission's proposal and motion for a resolution:

Proposal from the Commission for a regulation on loans for projects covered by exploration programmes for non-energy mineral raw materials within the territories of the Member States (Doc. 1-556/82)

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Recitals unchanged

Articles 1 to 5 unchanged

Article 6

1. unchanged

2. unchanged

Article 6

1. The Commission shall negotiate and conclude the contracts necessary for the implementation of the programmes selected in accordance with Article 5. It shall lay down for this purpose the general conditions governing each contract, stipulating the rights and obligations of each party, in particular the procedures for the repayment of the assistance granted, the details relating to the implementation of the programme and the rules for the dissemination in the Community of the results of projects in receipt of assistance.
2. The person(s) responsible for the implementation of a programme receiving Community assistance shall submit to the Commission, each year or at the latter's request, a report on the fulfilment of the contractual obligations towards the Commission and, in particular, on the progress of work on the programme and the expenditure incurred in carrying it out.

3. The Commission and the Court of Auditors shall have access at all times to the accounts relating to the programme. They shall be empowered to carry out on-the-spot checks and documentary inspections in such a way as to monitor the execution of the contract and, in particular, the progress made in implementing the programmes, but in a way which does not hamper the work of the programme.

4. unchanged

- unchanged

- to implement the programme in the shortest time possible in line with the objectives established and not to interrupt or abandon the project without consulting the Commission;

- unchanged

3. The Commission and the Court of Auditors shall have access at all times to the accounts relating to the programme. They shall be empowered to carry out on-the-spot checks and documentary inspections in such a way as to monitor the execution of the contract and, in particular, the progress made in implementing the programmes.

4. The person(s) applying for a loan shall undertake:

- to contribute to the programme the remainder of the necessary funds;

- not to reduce the amount of its (their) participation to below the level of that participation at the time when the application was made without the prior agreement of the Commission;

- to implement the programme in the shortest time possible in line with the objectives established and not to interrupt or abandon the project without the prior agreement of the Commission;

- should the programme result in the extraction of raw materials, to give priority to supplies to the Community in the form of either source materials or processed products at least in proportion to the financial assistance granted by the Community;

- unchanged

- not to dispose in any manner whatsoever, in the four years following termination of the programme, of the results of programmes for which assistance has been granted under this regulation without the prior agreement of the Commission.

Articles 7 to 11 unchanged

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on loans to projects covered by exploration programmes for non-energy mineral raw materials within the territories of the Member States

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(82) 415 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-556/82),
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Energy and Research (Doc. 1-974/82),
 - having regard to the outcome of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
1. Considers that the Member States' heavy dependence on external sources for supplies of raw materials makes it necessary for special steps to be taken at Community level to enable exploration to be carried out on Community territory with a view to reducing this dependence;
 2. Fears that, if left to their own initiative and resources, private mining undertakings will devote their resources to exploration outside the Community, where there is a better chance of finding minerals;
 3. Takes the view that the Commission's proposals are inadequate to achieve the - objective of reducing the Community's dependence, partly because of the modest funds earmarked for this purpose;
 4. Approves, however, as an initial move in the right direction, the proposal for a Council regulation designed to encourage exploration of Europe's mineral resources, this being a first step towards a Community supply policy in respect of raw materials;
 5. Considers, however, that the concept of additionality needs clarifying, since in its view, this should cover cases where non-national European undertakings should be able to benefit from Community aid, even when they are not eligible to receive national aid;

¹ OJ No. L 203, 6.8.1982, p.2

6. Believes that, given the modest nature of the funds earmarked, the aid should be set aside in the first place for drilling projects alone, this being the operation which entails the greatest risk, and not for any of the other stages of exploration and exploitation;
7. Calls on the Commission to submit a programme which sets out priorities as regards the regions and the non-energy mineral raw materials to be exploited;
8. Draws the attention of the Commission to the need to clarify what exactly is meant by 'the dissemination in the Community of the results';
9. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and the Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by parliament and the corresponding resolution.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from Mr Erwin LANGE, chairman, to the chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Brussels, 30 September 1982

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation on loans for projects covered by exploration programmes for non-energy mineral raw materials within the territories of the Member States
(Doc. 1-556/82)

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 22 and 23 September the Committee on Budgets considered the above Commission proposal.

It approved the proposal in view of its low financial cost and the fact that the administration of the scheme will be covered by existing staff.

This opinion was adopted unanimously.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) Erwin LANGE

The following took part in the vote:

Mr LANGE, chairman, Mrs BARBARELLA, vice-chairman, Mr ANSQUER, Mr ARNDT, Mr BALFE, Mr BONDE, Mrs BOSERUP, Mr FICH, Mr GOUTHIER, Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mr LOUWES, Mrs NIKOLAOU, Mr PRICE, Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS and Mr SIMONNET