
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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5 October 1978

DOCUMENT 335/78

Report (*)

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

on the draft Commission decision establishing ~~Community~~ rules for aids and interventions by Member States in favour of the iron and steel industry

Rapporteur: Mr V. ANSQUER

443.2

(*) This report replaces the report (Doc. 180/78) referred back to committee on 5 July 1978

By letter of 16 May 1978 the Commission of the European Communities, pursuant to Article 95, first paragraph, of the ECSC Treaty, forwarded to the European Parliament for information a draft decision establishing Community rules for aids and interventions by Member States in favour of the iron and steel industry (COM(78) 175 final).

By letter of 14 June 1978 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs requested authorization to submit a report on the subject.

The President of the European Parliament authorized the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs to draw up a report on this draft decision.

On 20 June 1978 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Mr Ansquer rapporteur.

It considered this draft decision at its meeting of 20 June 1978 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

At the plenary sitting of 5 July 1978 the rapporteur requested that the report be referred back to committee pursuant to Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs reconsidered the draft decision at its meeting of 25 September 1978 and unanimously adopted an amended motion for a resolution.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally in plenary sitting.

Present: Mr Pisani, chairman; Mr Notenboom and Mr Leonardi, vice-chairmen; Mr Ansquer, rapporteur; Mr Damseaux, Mrs Dahlerup, Mr Ellis, Mr Lange, Mr Müller-Hermann and Mr Ripamonti.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the draft Commission decision establishing Community rules for aids and interventions by Member States in favour of the iron and steel industry

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Commission decision (COM(78) 175 final),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 335/78),
1. Emphasizes that the restructuring of the Community iron and steel industry is the key factor in the Commission's anti-crisis policy; calls on the Commission to apply the rules governing aids in such a way as to assist the restructuring of the Community iron and steel industry;
 2. Points out that the lack of a Community framework for national aids and interventions could seriously jeopardize this restructuring policy;
 3. Approves, therefore, the principle of a framework procedure for aids and interventions by Member States in favour of the iron and steel industry, based on Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty and similar to the procedure provided for in Article 93 of the EEC Treaty;
 4. Considers that the criteria set out in the draft decision for determining the compatibility of the aids reflect the need for effective restructuring without disregarding regional and social requirements;
 5. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the application of the framework procedure for aids to restructuring does not result in any discrimination between undertakings, whatever their legal form of ownership;
 6. Requests, however, the Commission, which in accordance with this procedure rightly has special responsibility for coordinating national restructuring plans, to interpret strictly the Community rules laid down in the present draft decision;
 7. Emphasizes that a return to increased competitiveness in the iron and steel industry implies that the aid to restructuring will be degressive and temporary;

8. Requests the Commission also to keep under close review the actual implementation of the restructuring plans and the utilization of the aids granted for this purpose;
9. Emphasizes that the framework procedure for these aids should contribute effectively towards structural improvements in the iron and steel sector without jeopardizing the restoration of free competition; in this connection, urgently requests the Commission to forward to it the reports on the operation of the present decision referred to in Article 8;
10. Approves the draft Commission decision, subject to these reservations, and requests the Commission to incorporate the following amendments in its text, pursuant to Article 149, second paragraph, of the EEC Treaty;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

Decision establishing Community rules for
aids and interventions by Member States in
favour of the iron and steel industry

Preamble and Articles 1-7 unchanged

Article 8

The Commission shall prepare regular reports on the operation of this Decision for discussion with experts from the Member States. It may also seek the views of these experts in the case of the more important aid and intervention plans notified to it before taking a position on these plans.

Article 8

The Commission shall prepare regular reports on the operation of this Decision for discussion with experts from the Member States and for the information of the European Parliament. It may also seek the views of these experts in the case of the more important aid and intervention plans notified to it before taking a position on these plans.

Articles 9-10 unchanged

¹ For full text, see COM(78) 175 final

