

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT****Working Documents****1978 - 1979**

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27 October 1978

DOCUMENT 398/78

**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. 359/78) for a regulation on the abolition of postal charges for the presentation to customs of consignments of goods from another Member State which are relieved of internal taxes payable at importation

Rapporteur: Mr Kai NYBORG

1.2.1



By letter of 4 October 1978 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the abolition of postal charges for the presentation to customs of consignments of goods from another Member State which are relieved of internal taxes payable at importation.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as the committee responsible.

On 18 October 1978 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Mr K. Nyborg rapporteur and at the same meeting unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Pisani, chairman; Mr Notenboom and Mr Leonardi, vice-chairmen; Mr Nyborg, rapporteur; Lord Ardwick, Mr Halvgaard, Mr Lange, Mr Spinelli and Mr Starke.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the abolition of postal charges for the presentation to customs of consignments of goods from another Member State which are relieved of internal taxes payable at importation

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission's proposal<sup>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 359/78),
  - having regard to its resolution of 12 April 1978 on the development of the customs union and of the internal market<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 398/78),
1. Welcomes any measure which will help to convince citizens that they are living in a community;
  2. Approves, therefore, the Commission's proposal;
  3. Calls on the Council to enforce this regulation with effect from 1 December 1978 to allow the European citizen to enjoy the benefits of this reform in time for the Christmas and New Year festivities.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 240, 10.10.1978, p. 5

<sup>2</sup> OJ No C 108, 8.5.1978, p. 29

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

On an earlier occasion the Commission asked six Member States to stop collecting charges for the presentation to customs of goods which were not subject to internal taxes: this request was ignored.

In accordance with the European Parliament's resolution of 12 April 1978<sup>1</sup>, the Commission is therefore now asking the Council to issue a regulation obliging the Member States concerned to stop collecting such charges. It is difficult to explain to the European citizen why it should be reasonable to collect charges for the presentation to customs of goods which are not subject to customs duty, value-added tax or other internal charges. Implementation of the Commission's proposal would therefore help to convince the citizen that he is living in a community.

In the opinion of the committee, the abolition of this charge presents no administrative problems since in any case postal items have to be sorted into items liable to internal taxes and items which are exempt. What is more, the system is already applied without any difficulty in three Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No C 108, 8.5.1978, p.29