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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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31 October 1978

DOCUMENT 425/78

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and  
Transport

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the  
Council (Doc. 257/78) for a directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the  
establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of  
goods between Member States

Rapporteur: Mr A. DAMSEAUX

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PE 54.782/fin.



By letter of 3 August 1978 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 75 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport.

On 22 September 1978 the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport appointed Mr Damseaux rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 25 October 1978 and at the same meeting unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport decided to request that the report be dealt with in plenary sitting according to the procedure without debate.

Present: Lord Bruce of Donington, chairman and deputy rapporteur, Mr Nyborg and Mr McDonald, vice-chairmen; Mr Albers, Mr Delmotte, Mr Fuchs, Mr Ibrügger, Mr Jung, Mrs Kellett-Bowman, Mr Osborn, Mr Schyns, Mr Seefeld and Mr Starke.

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A

The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport 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 directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States

The European Parliament

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 75 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 257/78),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport (Doc. 425/78)

Approves the Commission's proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No.C 185, 3.8.1978, p.3

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. On 17 February 1975 the Council adopted Directive 75/130 establishing common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States. This Directive was prompted by considerations of economy and was also designed to increase traffic safety by reducing road traffic and to protect the environment.

In its proposal for this Directive, the Commission gave the following further reasons: as increased traffic safety is one of the basic aims of any common transport policy measure and the development of new technologies is very important, both as part of a general environmental campaign and for the profitability of companies, road haulage combined with other types of transport should be encouraged.<sup>1</sup>

2. On the basis of the report by Mr Giraud,<sup>2</sup> the European Parliament adopted the Commission's proposals on combined transport without amendment in December 1972.

3. In practice, under Article 2 of this Directive, each of the Member States was to liberalize combined transport from all quota systems and systems of authorization by October 1 1975<sup>3</sup>.

4. According to Article 1(1) of Directive No. 75/130 the term 'combined road/rail carriage' means: 'road transport of goods between Member States where tractor unit, lorry, trailer, semi-trailer or their swap bodies are transported by rail between the nearest suitable rail loading station to the point of loading and the nearest suitable rail unloading station to the point of unloading.'

5. Thus containers are not covered by the Directive. The Commission now proposes that container transport should be written into the 1975 Directive. In view of the considerable spread of container transport the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport can give its unreserved approval to this proposed amendment.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission proposal, Doc. 62/72, page 9 of the explanatory memorandum

<sup>2</sup> Giraud report, Doc. 220/72, OJ No. C 138, 31 December 1972, p.25

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. L 48, 22 February 1975, p.31

6. A second amendment included in the Commission's present proposal refers to the Directive's application to combined transport effected wholly on the territory of one Member State, irrespective of the transport firm responsible for carriage to the station of loading and from the station of unloading.

This proposed amendment can also be approved as it stands by your committee.

7. At their last meeting, held on 12 June 1978 in Luxembourg, the Ministers of Transport discussed measures to stimulate combined transport.

On this occasion the Council found that the technique of combined road/rail carriage over long distances provided a form of operation which was advantageous to all parties. The press release issued after this meeting stated that combined rail/road transport was advantageous:

- to the railways in that it enabled them to secure a greater share of any long-distance traffic;
- to road hauliers in that it brought advantages of safety, regularity and speed of carriage over long distances;
- to users in that it combined the advantages of door-to-door road haulage with rail carriage;
- and lastly to the community at large, in that it brought a reduction in road traffic and, thereby, an increase in safety while at the same time making a contribution towards protection of the environment'.<sup>1</sup>

8. The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport is entirely in agreement with these conclusions and welcomes the Commission's intention to submit other proposals to encourage combined road/rail traffic in the near future.

Your committee also hopes that no time will be lost in initiating negotiations with third countries to regulate combined transport throughout Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> See Notice to Members, PE 54.187, p.13

