



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 189 c (b) of the EC-Treaty

**CONCERNING THE COMMON POSITION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL WITH A
VIEW TO ADOPTING THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON A PARKING
CARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

All the Member States grant parking facilities to people who, by reason of their disability, experience difficulties in using public transport and are therefore more dependent than others on an individual means of transport in order to get about.

However, use of a parking card by the holder in another Member State may give rise to some practical problems. The diversity of models used causes a number of uncertainties, on the part of both users and the authorities responsible for ensuring the proper use of such cards.

For this reason, and in order to encourage understanding and mutual recognition of parking cards issued by the Member States, the Commission has proposed the adoption by the Council of this Recommendation. In addition to the mutual recognition of cards issued by each Member State, the text also provides for the adoption of a standard model.

The Economic and Social Committee (ESC) adopted its opinion on 27 March 1996. It considered the Commission proposal to be particularly suitable, but put forward certain amendments concerning the information to be included on the card and stressed the need to make available to persons with disabilities as much information as possible on existing facilities.

The Committee of the Regions (CR) adopted its opinion on 14 November 1996. It welcomes the proposed system, which avoids difficulties of interpretation of the rights conferred upon the holder by the parking card, and recommends the preparation of a guide providing an overview of the provisions in force in each Member State.

The European Parliament gave its opinion after the first reading on 13 December 1996. This contains ten amendments to the Commission's initial proposal. The amendments are intended to supplement or modify the proposal with regard to certain points, in particular the validity of cards currently in force and the specifications to be included on the reverse side of the parking card.

Of these ten amendments, the Commission accepted six in full or in part. As a result, an amended proposal was adopted on 4 March 1997.

On 18 December 1997, the Council unanimously adopted a common position on the adoption of a Recommendation on a parking card for people with disabilities.

The amendments made by the Council relate basically to the date of entry into force for the issue of the standard model, which is postponed from 1 January 1999 to 1 January 2000. The other amendments are aimed essentially at clarifying the provisions of the initial proposal.

Consequently, the Commission considers the Council's common position to be in keeping with the structure and aims of its initial proposal.