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INFORMATION MEMO

Proposals and communications from the Commission
to the Council concerning transport

As discussion of the common transport policy has been one of the main features of Community activity this month, the Spokesman's Group feels it may be useful to recall the various points connected with transport which are at present before the EEC Council.

At its session of 19-20 October 1966, the EEC Council of Ministers adopted a resolution urging "that the studies which have been undertaken as a result of the agreement of 22 June 1965 ... be widened in scope in order to make possible a more accurate definition of the relative importance of the regulation on rate brackets and of certain other regulations to be adopted in the context of this agreement, and thus to enable a solution to be found to the disagreement which has arisen in the Council over the whole problem of rate brackets".

In the same resolution, the Council invited "the Commission to propose, within a short time, measures relating to the capacity of road transport vehicles and of river transport, as well as to entry to the professions". The Council also instructed "the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine, as soon as possible, the Commission's proposal relating to the rules of competition, the question of safeguard measures, and also the Commission's communication on the UNIR plan and the regulations of the capacity of inland waterway transport". Lastly, the Council emphasized "the necessity of rapid implementation of the Council Decision of 13 May 1965 on the harmonization of conditions of competition, and also the necessity of a solution to the problem of the apportionment of infrastructure costs, possibly a provisional interim solution".

It should be noted that the Commission - in conformity with its Treaty obligations and the above-mentioned Council Decision of 13 May 1965 - submitted to the Council a number of proposals, listed below, in the chronological order in which they were transmitted. The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee had already expressed their opinion on most of these proposals.

1. Proposal for a Council Directive on permitted weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles and on certain additional technical requirements applicable to these vehicles

The Commission's initial proposal was made on 6 September 1962; it was amended by the Commission on 9 April 1963 and again on 21 May 1964. The European Parliament rendered its opinion on 17 October 1963 and the Economic and Social Committee on 24 April 1963.

* plan for an International Union for Rhine navigation drawn up by the present Central Commission for Rhine Navigation.

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2. Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a rate-bracket system for goods transport by rail, road and inland waterway

The Commission's initial Proposal was made on 10 May 1963. The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee rendered their opinions on 18 June 1964 and 30 January 1964 respectively. On 22 June 1965 the Council reached agreement in principles on the organization of the transport market. The Commission bore this agreement in mind when it presented its amendments to the Proposal on 29 October 1965. The European Parliament rendered a supplementary opinion on 19 January 1966 and 27 June 1966, and the Economic and Social Committee on 29 September 1966.

3. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the institution and operation of a Community quota for the transport of goods by road within the Community

The Commission's proposal was handed to the Council on 10 May 1963. The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee gave their opinions on 18 June 1964 and 30 January 1964 respectively. On 9 March 1965 the Council agreed to a text which, however, it has not yet finally adopted.

4. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the abolition of double taxation on motor vehicles engaged in international traffic

The Commission's proposal to the Council was made on 18 March 1964; the opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee were rendered on 18 January 1965 and on 8 and 9 December 1964 respectively.

5. Proposal for a Council Regulation making the rules of competition applicable to transport by rail, road and inland waterway

The Commission submitted this proposal to the Council on 4 June 1964. The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee gave their opinions on 23 October 1964 and 27 April 1965 respectively.

6. Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the abolition of discrimination in transport rates and conditions

The Commission submitted this proposal to the Council on 6 October 1965.

7. Proposal for a Council Directive on the standardization of regulations governing the free entry of fuel contained in the tanks of commercial vehicles

The Commission submitted this proposal to the Council on 15 July 1966.

8. Proposal for a Council Regulation on aids to rail, road and inland waterway transport enterprises

The Commission submitted this proposal to the Council on 18 July 1966.

9. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the harmonization of certain social provisions in road transport

The Commission submitted this proposal to the Council on 22 July 1966.

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On 22 June 1966 the Commission handed to the Council a memorandum on the UNIR plan and control of inland waterway transport capacity. This memorandum is complementary to that on the application of the Rome Treaty to Rhine shipping of 8 April 1965.