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Brussels, 17 October 1996

10622/96 (Presse 267)

PARLIAMENT – COUNCIL CONCILIATION COMMITTEE

Brussels, 10 October 1996

"Customs 2000" programme

Representatives of the European Parliament and of the Council, meeting on 10 October 1996 in the Conciliation Committee under the co-decision procedure, agreed on a joint draft for the Decision on a Community customs action programme (Customs 2000) ⁽¹⁾.

The Committee succeeded in finding common ground for the various, essentially technical or drafting, questions dividing the two institutions. They each have six weeks in which to confirm the joint draft (by an absolute majority of votes cast in the case of the Parliament and by a qualified majority in the case of the Council) further to which the Decision will stand adopted.

The action programme is intended to back up and supplement action by the Member States in the customs field for the period from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 2000. It should contribute to the development and modernization of customs administrations by increasing the effectiveness of procedures and controls at the entry and exit points of the Community customs territory, thereby ensuring the best possible management of the internal market.

The programme has a budget of ECU 50 million.

⁽¹⁾ The Conciliation Committee has 30 members: 15 members from the European Parliament and one representative from each Member State. The meeting on 10 October was chaired jointly by the President-in-Office of the Council, Mrs Avril DOYLE, Minister of State at the Department of Finance and the Department of Transport, Energy and Communications of Ireland, and Mrs Nicole FONTAINE, Vice-President of the European Parliament.