

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE
11954/82 (Presse 196)

814th meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 16 December 1982

President: Mr Arne MELCHIOR,
Minister for Public Works
of the Kingdom of Denmark

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO
Minister for Transport
and for Posts and
Telecommunications

Germany:

Mr Werner DOLLINGER
Federal Minister for Transport

France:

Mr Charles FITERMAN
Minister of State,
Ministry of Transport

Italy:

Mr Nicolo GRASSI-BERTAZZI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport

Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES
Minister for Transport
and Public Works

Denmark:

Mr Arne MELCHIOR
Minister for Public Works

Greece:

Mr Nicholas AKRITIDIS
Minister for Public Works

Ireland:

Mr Jim MITCHELL
Minister for Transport and
Communications

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean MISCHO
Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Transport

Mr Iain SPROAT
Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade

Commission:

Mr Georges CONTOGEOGIS
Member

SITUATION AS REGARDS THE COMMON TRANSPORT POLICY

The Council took note of the statements by a number of delegations and by Mr CONTOGEOORGIS, member of the Commission, on ways and means of promoting the development of the common transport policy.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS OF COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES

The Council noted the progress made in the course of the work carried out since its meeting on 10 June 1982. It also took note of certain suggestions put forward with a view to resolving, inter alia, the problem of the maximum weight of vehicles. Following a brief exchange of views on these suggestions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the issue in the light of the comments made during the discussion and to report back to it at the earliest opportunity.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Limited financial support

The Council signified its agreement to a proposal for a Regulation on the granting of limited financial support in the field of transport infrastructure. Under this proposal, the Community will grant its financial support, within the limit of the 10 MECU available in appropriations from the 1982 budget, to the following three transport infrastructure projects:

Work in connection with:

- Italy
- Domodossola marshalling and customs-clearance yard, in order to increase the capacity of the Simplon railway line. This work will dovetail with the work carried out by the Swiss to double the capacity of the Lötschberg line.
- Greece
- the Klidi-Axios section of the Evzoni-Volos road. This project is aimed at improving the roads linking Evzoni and Igoumenitsa to the ferry ports of Volos and Kalamata, thus making it possible for all the overland routes of Western Europe to be linked with the Mediterranean and, from there, the Middle East. The project relates to the construction of a fast road from Evzoni to Volos and in particular the widening of the carriageway between Klidi and Axios.
- United Kingdom/
France
- fixed cross-Channel link - work on technical aspects, to facilitate appraisal of the project by the banks.
This project is directed towards a study on possible means of financing the construction of a fixed link across the Channel; such a study would constitute an important step towards the achievement of that link.

The Commission will, in agreement with the Member States concerned, take the measures necessary for the application of the Regulation and will, on completion of the work supported by the Community, submit a report to the Council.

- Multiannual programme

Following the invitation he received from the Council at its meeting on 10 June 1982 (¹), Mr CONTOGEOORGIS, Member of the Commission, commented on the communication forwarded to the Council by the Commission on 10 December 1982, concerning an experimental transport infrastructure programme covering the period 1983 to 1987.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to study this programme and to report back to it for its next meeting on transport questions.

(¹) See 7559/82 (Presse 74), page 6.

FACILITATION OF FORMALITIES AND INSPECTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

In the light of the draft Directive as set out by the Permanent Representatives Committee and on the basis of a Note from the Presidency, the Council held a general discussion on certain issues of principle to which the proposed Directive on this matter gave rise.

This facilitation of formalities and inspections forms part of the programme of priority measures adopted by the Transport Council on 26 March 1981, and is among the priority goals recommended by the European Council in Copenhagen on 3 and 4 December 1982 as a means of strengthening the internal market.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to do its utmost to enable a decision to be reached on the matter as soon as possible.

FORMATION OF RATES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

The Council took note of a report from the Presidency on the progress of proceedings on the proposal for a Regulation on the formation of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal.

SHUTTLE SERVICES

The Council approved a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the Community and third countries which are members of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), with a view to establishing uniform arrangements for international shuttle services by coach and bus. Such an Agreement should be based on Regulation (EEC) No 516/72, under which common rules were introduced for international passenger transport by bus and coach.

Such an Agreement would, in common with the ASOR Agreement, simplify administrative formalities, eliminate distortions of competition, encourage the rational and efficient development of transport services on a European scale and improve collaboration with the ECMT countries.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRIA IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

The Council heard a verbal report from the Commission on progress in the negotiations with Austria in the field of transport. The exchange of views which ensued revealed the political interest there was in the successful pursuit of those negotiations.

INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY CO-OPERATION

The Council took note of a verbal report from the Commission concerning progress in its work on international railway co-operation. The Commission's report will form part of the work to be done in connection with the Council Resolution on railway policy adopted in December 1981 (see press release 11770/81 (Presse 169) of 15 December 1981).

The report takes stock of the work currently in hand at the Commission as a result of the invitation to it from the Council on 10 June 1982 to continue its proceedings and to submit to the Council at the earliest opportunity specific proposals to strengthen international railway co-operation.

COMMUNITY QUOTA FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

The Council decided to extend the system of short-term authorizations introduced under Regulation (EEC) No 2964/79, and made that system permanent.

The Council also agreed that the ceiling for short-term authorizations should be increased to 15% of the total quota of the Member States concerned. However, following a detailed discussion the Council recorded that it was not in a position to increase the Community quota.

The Council recalled that it was, moreover, awaiting with interest the Commission proposal promised for early 1983 concerning in particular a new method of calculation for increasing and allocating the Community quota.

STANDARDIZATION OF CERTAIN RULES RELATING TO AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

In the course of a policy debate, the Council noted that there was broad agreement on the substance of the problem covered by a proposal for a Directive aimed at reducing the administrative difficulties experienced with removals effected by road. Concluding its discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the problem.

INTER-REGIONAL SERVICES

The Council made a detailed examination of the proposal for a Directive concerning the authorization of scheduled inter-regional air services for passengers, mail and cargo between Member States.

The Council was able to align positions on a number of points. In concluding its proceedings the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue active examination of the problems still unresolved so that final overall agreement could be reached in the near future.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard a statement on:

- the limitation of noise and exhaust emission from road vehicles (German delegation).

OTHER DECISIONS ON TRANSPORT

ASOR

The Council adopted a Regulation concerning the implementation of the Agreement on the international carriage of passengers by road by means of occasional coach and bus services (ASOR). This Agreement was adopted in Dublin on 26 May 1982 and approved by the Community on 12 July 1982 (see Press Release 7559/82 (Presse 74), 10.6.1982, page 13).

The Regulation determines the respective responsibilities of the Council, the Commission and the Member States for the implementation of the Agreement. The competent authorities of the Member States are entrusted with the task of overseeing the application of the ASOR;

The Commission will, in accordance with the Treaty, ensure that the Agreement and the ASOR are applied, and will maintain liaison between the Community and the Member States on the one hand and the remaining contracting parties on the other. Any decision on revising or denouncing the ASOR will be a matter for the Council.

Shipping information system

The Council adopted a Decision extending until 31 December 1984 the collection of information concerning the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic between the Member States and East Africa, Central America and the Far East. The collection of information on these activities was introduced by Council Decisions Nos 79/4/EEC, 80/1181/EEC and 81/189/EEC.

Bruxelles, le 15 decembre 1982.
Note Bio (82)536 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc: aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL TRANSPORT DU 16 DECEMBRE 1982

(C. STATHOPOULOS)

Les Ministres du Transport se reuniront demain (16 decembre) a Bruxelles, a partir de 10 h., pour affronter dans leur reunion habituelle du deuxieme semestre de l'annee une longue liste de points.

Dans l'ordre du jour on retrouve certains points deja connus des Conseils precedents :

- les poids et dimensions des vehicules routiers utilitaires,
- l'autorisation de services aeriens reguliers interregionaux.

Les autres points de l'ordre du jour sont :

- l'action limitee dans le domaine des infrastructures de transport,
- la proposition de directive relative a la simplification des formalites et des controles lors du transport de marchandises entre Etats membres,
- la cooperation ferroviaire internationale,
- le mandat pour la Commission de negocier un accord avec les pays tiers concernant certains transports internationaux de voyageurs par route effectues par autocars et autobus (SIRENA),
- La formation des prix ainsi que le contingent communautaire pour les transports de marchandises par route entre les Etats membres,
- l'uniformisation de certaines regles relatives aux autorisations pour les transports de marchandises par route entre Etats membres,
- enfin, les negociations avec l'Autriche dans le domaine des transports et l'Etat de la politique commune des transports.

Quelques mots de background sur certains dossiers :

CONTINGENT COMMUNAUTAIRE

Cette proposition a pour objet de fixer pour 1983, le niveau et la repartition entre Etats membres du contingent communautaire pour les transports de marchandises par route entre les Etats membres.

L'augmentation de 5% proposee tient compte a la fois des circonstances economiques dans la Communaute et de la situation des pays peripheriques qui beneficent d'une augmentation supplementaire limitee.

Il importe d'autre part de rendre definitives les dispositions qui prevoient la possibilite de transformer jusqu'a 10% des autorisations communautaires en autorisations de courte duree.

POIDS ET DIMENSIONS DES VEHICULES UTILITAIRES

Le Conseil prendra note du progres realise par ses organes subsidiaires au sujet de la proposition de directive sur les poids et dimensions des vehicules utilitaires. Des clarifications supplementaires ont ete apportees au texte examine par le dernier Conseil (Transport) en juin 1982.

Un large accord a ete atteint sur le principe d'une "harmonisation partielle", ce qui signifie le plein droit a la circulation en transport international pour les vehicules qui satisfont aux prescriptions de la directive.

En meme temps, on admettrait que certaines regles n'etant pas encore regies par la Directive, puissent continuer a etre appliquees a la vente et l'immatriculation des vehicules dans le Etats membres

FACILITATION DES FORMALITES ET CONTROLES LORS DU TRANSPORT DE MARCHANDISES ENTRE ETATS MEMBRES

Le Conseil discutera le 16 decembre pour la premiere fois la proposition sur la facilitation des passages frontaliers que la Commission lui a soumise en avril de cette annee. Cette proposition, qui fait partie integrante des initiatives de la Commission au sujet du renforcement du marche interieur, vise a apporter une amelioration pour les cinq modes de transport (route, chemin de fer, navigation interieure, maritime et aerienne) au passage frontieral pour une meilleure organisation des controles physiques et de formalites administratives a nos frontieres interieures.

Au stade actuel, il faut s'attendre a ce que les discussions vont se concentrer sur les questions suivantes :

- le champ d'application,
- le respect du principe du sondage pour les controles physiques et
- la reconnaissance mutuelle des faits constatés lors d'un controle precedent effectue par des autorites d'un autre Etat membre.

ACTION LIMITEE DANS LE DOMAINE DES INFRASTRUCTURES DE TRANSPORTS

Le Conseil est appele a adopter une proposition de reglement permettant la mise en oeuvre d'une action limitee de soutien a la realisation de quelques projets d'infrastructure de transport d'interet communautaire. Cette action resulte d'une inscription par le Parlement europeen, d'un credit de 10 millions d'ECUS au budget 1982.

En proposant au financement communautaire quelques projets particulierement interessants du point de vue du developpement de echanges intracommunautaires, la Commission a voulu demontrer la possibilite de realiser, dans le domaine des infrastructures, qui normalement requierent des investissements considerables, un appui significatif, avec des montants relativement limites.

Bruxelles, le 16 decembre 1982.
Note Bio (82)536 suite 1 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

Conseil Transport du 16 decembre 1982 (C.STATHOPOULOS)

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RESULTATS

L'approbation de la liste des points "A" est le seul resultat concret de la seance matinale du Conseil des Ministres des Transports qui a debute vers 10h.30 sous la presidence du Ministre danois M. Arne Melchior. Il s'agit :

1. de la prorogation jusqu'au 31 decembre 1984 de la COLLECTE D'INFORMATIONS concernant les transports maritimes de ligne entre d'une part, les Etats membres et, d'autre part l'Afrique orientale, l'Amerique centrale et l'extreme-Orient et
2. de l'adoption du reglement concernant l'execution de l'accord relatif aux services occasionnels internationaux de voyageurs par route effectues par autocars ou par autobus (ASOR), qui a ete signe le 26 mai 1982 entre la CEE et l'Autriche, l'Espagne, la Finlande, la Norvege, le Portugal, la Suede, la Suisse et la Turquie.

DEROULEMENT DE LA SESSION

La seance de la matinee a ete dominee par une longue discussion sur le projet de directive concernant l'autorisation de SERVICES AERIENS REGULIERS INTERREGIONAUX entre Etats membres. Malgre le rapprochement des positions des Etats membres, depuis l'examen de ce projet de directive lors du dernier Conseil Transport en juin 1982, et la reduction du champ d'action initial de la proposition (autorisation des services aeriens pour des parcours superieurs a 400 km, au lieu de 200; capacite d'aeronefs ne depassant pas 70 places au lieu de 130), le Conseil n'est pas parvenu a un accord. Un groupe d'experts, s'est engage a faire rapport au Conseil au cours de l'apres-midi sur la possibilite de trouver un compromis entre les positions de certains Etats membres qui soutiennent la Commission dans son effort de liberaliser les services aeriens (delegations britannique, irlandaise et neerlandaise) et les autres delegations qui estiment que les nouvelles regles pourraient avoir un impact negatif sur les services existants. (A noter la reserve generale de la delegation hellenique).

M. SANTARELLI COMEUR 15 h.30////
IV

Bruxelles, le 17 decembre 1982.
Note Bio(82)536 suite 2 et fin
cc. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

Conseil Transport du 16 decembre (C.STATHOPOULOS)

Le Conseil s'est termine hier soir vers minuit avec des resultats partiels et plutot decevants. Les seules decisions prises au cours de l'apres-midi etaient l'adoption de L'ACTION LIMITEE dans le domaine des INFRASTRUCTURES DE TRANSPORTS. Aux termes de cette proposition de reglement rappelons-le, la Communaute accordera son soutien financier, dans la limite des credits de 10 MECU disponibles au titre du budget 1982, aux trois projets suivants:

- Italie : modernisation de la gare de triage de Domodossola;
- Grece : amelioration de la route Evzoni-Volos;
- Royaume-Uni/France : travaux preparatoires pour le projet de construction d'une liaison fixe a travers la Manche.

La prorogation pour un temps indetermine du systeme des AUTORISATIONS DE COURTE DUREE instaure par le reglement (CEE) 2964/79 concernant le CONTINGENT COMMUNAUTAIRE pour les transports de marchandises par route effectues entre Etats membres. Le Conseil est en outre convenu que le plafond pour les autorisations de courte duree soit porte a 15% du contingent global de l'Etat membre concerne. L'augmentation du contingent communautaire de l'ordre de 4,3% proposee par la Commission est soutenue par 7 delegations, s'est heurtee a l'opposition des delegations allemande, francaise et italienne, qui n'acceptaient pas d'augmenter le contingent existant.

Le Conseil a marque enfin son accord sur une decision autorisant la Commission a negocier un accord entre la Communaute et les pays tiers, membres de la Confederation europeenne des Ministres du Transport (CEMT), en vue d'etablir un regime uniforme pour les services de NAVETTE internationaux par AUTOCARS et par AUTOBUS (SIRENA)

Les grands problemes de l'ordre du jour : les services aeriens interregionaux, les poids et dimensions des vehicules routiers utilitaires, la facilitation des formalites et controles lors du transport des marchandises entre Etats membres, l'augmentation du contingent communautaire ont fait l'objet d'une negociation approfondie qui n'a pourtant pas rendu possible la prise de decisions.

M. Contogeorgis, qui avait lance a plusieurs reprises lors de la reunion un appel pressant aux Ministres de prendre des decisions, a exprime avant la fin de la seance sa deception pour les "maigres resultats" obtenus. Il a souligne la pression, qui subsiste de la part du Parlement et de l'opinion publique, pour que le Conseil aboutisse a des resultats concrets dans le domaine des transports. La Commission, a-t-til rappele, a soumis au Conseil 38 propositions sur base desquelles celui-ci pourrait statuer

Amities
M. SANTARELLI

COMEUR 13h45////

