

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1984 - 1985

11 April 1984

DOCUMENT 1-173/84

ORAL QUESTION (O-1/83)

with debate pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr ALBERS, Mr KLINKENBORG and Mr LÖÖ

on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Structural reform of the market in
the carriage of goods by inland
waterway

1. What action has the Commission taken on the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on possible measures to improve the situation in the inland waterway sector ?¹
2. Is it correct that market surveys of the inland waterway sector have predicted a pessimistic outlook with little hope of a recovery, as a result inter alia of a declining market for the transport of ores and building materials ?
3. Does the Commission agree with the gloomy forecasts that waiting times for inland shippers and 'empty journeys' will increase as a result of structural overcapacity combined with the poor prospects for market recovery ?

PE 83.728

4. What importance does the Commission attach to the following proposals for improving the situation in the inland waterway sector :
- (a) proposal for a Council regulation concerning access to the market for the carriage of goods by inland waterway²,
 - (b) proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1191/69 of 26 June 1969 on action by the Member States concerning the obligations inherent in the concept of a public service in transport by rail, road and inland waterway³,
 - (c) proposal for a Council regulation on the harmonization of certain social provisions relating to goods transport by inland waterway⁴,
 - (d) proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) concerning a system for observing the markets for the carriage of goods by road, rail and inland waterway between the Member States⁵,
 - (e) proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) on a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of goods by inland waterway between Member States⁶,
 - (f) proposal for a Council decision setting up an information and consultation procedure for relations and agreements with third countries in the field of transport by rail, road and inland waterway⁷.
5. What action has the Commission taken on the request in the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 9 July 1982 to grant aid, within the framework of aid to transport infrastructure projects, for the development of the Community's waterway network, as well as to the Rhine-Main-Danube canal, the Rhine-Rhône link and the Italian projects in the inland waterways sector, and the improvement of the inland waterway network in Northern France ?⁸
6. What are the Commission's views on the importance of developing the inland waterway sector in the context of :
- the promotion of combined transport to relieve overcrowded roads,

- environmental protection,
- energy-saving,
- the Year of the SMU,

in view of the proposals referred to above which have not yet been concluded, and in view of the undertaking given by the Commission in an oral statement by Commissioner Giolitti before the European Parliament on 11 May 1979 that a proposal would be submitted before the end of that year on the structural reform of the market in the carriage of goods by waterway ?⁹

-
- ¹ OJ C 140 of 5.6.1979, p. 169
 - ² Doc. COM(67) 720 final of 23.11.1967 amended by Doc. COM(69) 311 final of 25.4.1969
 - ³ Doc. COM(72) 1516 final of 7.12.1972 amended by COM(80) 907 final of 9.1.1981 amended by COM(82) 106 final of 11.3.1982
 - ⁴ COM(75) 465 final of 10.9.1975, amended by COM(79) 363 final of 17.7.1979
 - ⁵ COM(75) 490 final of 1.10.1975, amended by COM(80) 785 final of 5.12.1980
 - ⁶ COM(75) 640 final of 10.12.1975, amended by COM(77) 116 final of 6.4.1977
 - ⁷ COM(80) 809 final of 11.12.1980
 - ⁸ OJ C 238 of 13.9.1982, p. 102
 - ⁹ Debates No 243, p. 272

