

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-85/84

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Economic and
Monetary Affairs

on travel restrictions on holidaymakers in the European
Community

Rapporteur: Mr K. NYBORG

PE 89.593/fin.
Or. De.

At its sitting of 20 May 1983, the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr COTTRELL on travel allowances for holidaymakers within the European Community (Doc. 1-347/83) to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and the Legal Affairs Committee for opinions.

At its meeting of 20-21 June 1983, the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Mr NYBORG rapporteur.

At its sittings of 13 April 1983 and 16 May 1983 respectively, the European Parliament referred the motions for resolutions by Mr COTTRELL on travel restrictions in France (Doc. 1-126/83) and Mr ANTONIOZZI on the restriction on foreign travel by French tourists as a result of the exchange restrictions imposed by the French Government (Doc. 1-203/83) to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and the Legal Affairs Committee for opinions.

At its meeting of 28-30 November 1983, the committee decided to consider both these motions for resolutions in its report on Doc. 1-347/83. The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and the Legal Affairs Committee did not deliver opinions.

The committee considered and unanimously adopted the draft report at its meeting of 22 March 1984.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Moreau, chairman; Mr Nyborg, rapporteur; Mr von Bismarck, Mr Beazley, Mr Calvez (deputizing for Mr De Gucht), Mr de Ferranti, Mr Herman, Mr Muller-Hermann, Mr Schinzel, Mr Welsh and Mr von Wogau.

This report will be put to the vote in the plenary sitting under the procedure without debate (Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure).

The report was tabled on 26 March 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on travel restrictions on holidaymakers in the European Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-347/83),
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-126/83)
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-203/83),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 1-85/84),
1. Points out that Community citizens must find it incomprehensible that there are restrictions on the amount of money they may export from their own country so that it is practically impossible to travel in the Community;
 2. Refers to the Court of Justice judgment of 31 January 1984 (joined cases 186/82 and 26/83) on the interpretation of Article 106 of the EEC Treaty which states that transfers of currency for the purpose of tourism, business or study trips or travel for medical treatment constitute payments rather than capital movements even if they are effected by means of transfers of cash in the form of banknotes. According to the judgment, restrictions on such payments were abolished at the end of the transitional period;
 3. Welcomes the fact that France has now eased its currency restrictions but calls on the Commission painstakingly to investigate whether any restrictions that exist in the Member States are at variance with Article 106 of the Treaty as now interpreted by the Court of Justice. The Commission should act immediately to ensure that all such unlawful restrictions applicable to tourists are abolished, if necessary by applying Article 169 of the EEC Treaty;
 4. Urges that measures be adopted forthwith to liberalize capital movements in the Community in keeping with the guidelines set out in the Sir Brandon Rhys Williams' report on the creation of a European capital market¹;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Doc. 1-1266/83, resolution adopted on 16.2.84

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION DOCUMENT 1-347/83

tabled by Mr COTTRELL

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on travel allowances for holidaymakers within the European Community

The European Parliament,

- A. aware that the French Socialist Government is continuing to restrict the freedom of movement within the Community of its own citizens by maintaining a travel allowance for holidaymakers,
- B. concerned that other Community governments might be encouraged to take similar action in the future unless the restrictions are removed,
- C. aware of the serious consequences for the European travel and tourist industry should the principle of controls on freedom of movement within the Community become established,
- D. regarding such controls and restrictions as anathema to the entire concept of the Community,
- E. determined to indicate clearly to Governments and opposition parties in Member States that electoral programmes containing commitments to exchange and similar controls are contrary to the interests of Community citizens,
- F. noting that the imposition of exchange controls and travel allowances for holidaymakers are invariably ingredients of crisis economic policies,

REQUESTS THE COMMISSION

to urgently review the present situation and to formulate a draft Regulation whose objectives will be:

- 1) to ensure the freedom of currency and capital movement within the Community,
- 2) to safeguard the right of Community citizens to freedom of movement within the Community, with particular reference to the travel and tourist industry.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION DOCUMENT 1-126/83
tabled by Mr COTTRELL
pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on travel restrictions in France

The European Parliament,

- A. noting the recent austerity measures recently announced by the French Government,
- B. observing that these include the introduction of tight restrictions on the amount of money available to French citizens for travel abroad,
- C. noting that these restrictions apply within the European Community,
- D. considering that such restrictions are a breach of the guarantee on freedom of movement within the Community contained within the Treaties,

Requests -

The Commission to make an urgent study of the travel restrictions announced by the French Government, and their likely consequences within the Community; and if such investigation suggests a breach of the Treaty, further requests the matter to be referred to the European Court for a decision.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION DOCUMENT 1-203/83

tabled by Mr ANTONIOZZI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the restriction on foreign travel by French tourists

as a result of the exchange restrictions imposed by the

French Government

The European Parliament,

- A. aware that the French Government has decided to limit drastically the amount of foreign currency allowed to French tourists going abroad,
- B. agreeing that this occurs at a time when the tourist season has been closed for some time, contracts having been concluded as long ago as the autumn of 1982 to destinations in various parts of the world, especially Southern Europe and other developing regions which will be seriously affected by these decisions,
- C. considering that this may encourage similar measures in retaliation which will, in the end, be harmful to foreign tourism in France and will have obvious negative effects on that country in terms of foreign exchange;
- D. recognizing the need for France also, to comply with Article 7 of the EEC Treaty on the right of free movement,

Requests

- 1. The Council of Ministers to make a responsible assessment of the situation;
- 2. The Commission of the European Communities and the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for tourism to consider this problem and to suggest the solutions most appropriate to avoid the difficulties stemming from the French Government's decision in real, foreign exchange, economic and legal terms;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the French Government and the World Touring and Automobile Organization.