

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

15 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-502/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Transport

on the introduction of reduced rates at weekends,
on official holidays, and after 8 p.m. for intra-
Community telephone calls

Rapporteur: Mr J. L. MARSHALL

PE 85.244/fin.

At its sitting of 15 September 1982 the European Parliament referred to the Committee on Transport, as the committee responsible, the motion for a resolution by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI (Doc. 1-589/82), pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the introduction of reduced rates at weekends, official holidays and after 8 p.m. for intra-Community telephone calls.

At its meeting of 25/26 January 1983 the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Lord HARMAR-NICHOLLS rapporteur. At the committee meeting of 26 May 1983 Lord HARMAR-NICHOLLS was replaced by Mr MARSHALL.

The committee considered the draft report at its meeting of 21 June 1983 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole.

The following took part in the vote : Mr Seefeld, chairman; Mr Kaloyannis, vice-chairman; Mr Marshall, rapporteur; Mr Albers, Mrs von Alemann, Mr Arndt (deputizing for Mr Gabert), Mr Bandis, Mr Cardia, Lord Harmar-Nicholls, Mr K.-H. Hoffmann, Mr Janssen van Raay (deputizing for Mr O'Donnell), Mr Klinkenborg, Mr Lagakos, Mr Loo (deputizing for Mr Ripa di Meana), Mrs Martin, Mr Moreland (deputizing for Mr Cottrell) and Mrs Scamaroni.

The report was tabled on 29 June 1983.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6
ANNEX : Motion for a resolution by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI (Doc. 1-589/82)	8

A.

The Committee on Transport submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement :

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the introduction of reduced rates at weekends, official holidays and after 8 p.m. for intra-Community telephone calls

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI on the above subject (Doc. 1-589/82),
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Transport (Doc. 1-502/83),
1. Favours the reduction of intra-Community telephone charges at off-peak periods;
 2. Urges those Member States which have not yet done so to implement, through reciprocal agreements, the 1977 opinion of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee on the reduction of off-peak charges in respect of intra-Community telephone charges;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, Council and national parliaments.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The author of the resolution in question calls upon the Governments of the Member States to open negotiations with a view to reducing rates for intra-Community phone calls at weekends, on official holidays and after 8 p.m., and further suggests that a reduction of at least one-third should be made in the rates applied to intra-Community phone calls at such times.
2. In the preamble to the resolution the author stresses that 'the Government of one Member State' decided in 1981 to apply reduced rates for calls to all the other Member States on official holidays, in the evenings and at night. There are grounds for supposing that the Government referred to is that of France.
3. Contacts with the CEPT (European Conference of Posts and Telecommunications Administrations) have revealed that the current situation in this area is as follows:

In 1977 the CCITT (International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee) delivered an Opinion on the reduction of off-peak charges for international phone calls. Reciprocal agreements to implement the recommendations contained in this Opinion have been entered into by France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy. The latter countries now apply tariffs reduced by 33% in respect of calls made at night, at weekends and on national holidays to all EEC countries together with Canada, the United States and Israel.
4. The other Member States apart from the four mentioned above have not yet applied the CCITT Opinion, although they have recently been requested to take steps in this direction by the association of European telephone users.
5. It can be concluded, therefore, that the reduced rates called for in the resolution by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI are already applied on an intra-Community basis by four Member States, and that

the European Parliament should press for their application as soon as possible by the remaining six Member States. Further action in this field would seem hard to envisage at this stage.

6. On a more general level, your rapporteur feels that increased competition among national postal, telephone and telegraph authorities is likely to lead to further reductions in intra-European telephone rates. A particularly encouraging development in this connection is the proposal by the German Bundespost to introduce optical fibres on a large scale and Europe's first nationwide toll-free dialling system for airline reservations and similar services. (1)

(1) Financial Times, 11.2.82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 1-589/82)

tabled by Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the introduction of reduced rates at weekends, on official holidays and after 8 o'clock in the evening for intra-Community telephone calls.

The European Parliament,

- A. wishing to promote rapprochement between the citizens of the Member States of the Community,
- B. aware of the large numbers of nationals of Member States living outside their countries but within the Community,
- C. drawing attention to the crucial role which will henceforward be played by the telephone in Europe in the matter of maintaining family ties and, on a more general level, the enrichment of social relations,
- D. wishing therefore to see the development of the telephone encouraged for social purposes,
- E. noting that the workload of the intra-European telecommunications network is substantially lighter on Saturday afternoons, Sundays, official holidays, and from 8 o'clock in the evening on working days as a result of the reduction in business activities during these periods; noting that as a result non-business telephone calls could be encouraged without additional equipment costs during these off-peak hours,
- F. whereas, taking account of the state of development of the telephone network in the Community the economic cost of telephone calls is now based less and less on the concept of distance and more and more on criteria determining the conditions of access to the network,
- G. stressing that a number of Member States already apply reduced rates for national or international calls in the evenings, at night, at weekends and on official holidays,
- H. stressing that the Government of one Member State decided in 1981 to apply on a general basis reduced rates for calls within its own territory and to all the other Member States on official holidays, in the evenings and at night,
- 1. Calls on the Governments of the Member States to open negotiations on the adoption of reduced rates for intra-Community telephone calls at weekends,

on official holidays and after 8 o'clock in the evenings;

2. Suggests that a reduction of at least one third should be made in rates for intra-Community telephone calls at such times;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Governments of the Member States, the Commission and the Council.

