

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

12 March 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1539/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Transport

on postal charges in the Community

Rapporteur : Mr Robert MORELAND

PE 85.245/fin.

Or. EN

At its sitting of 14 December 1981 the European Parliament referred to the Committee on Transport, as the committee responsible, the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-787/81) by Mr HABSBURG and others, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the tariffs for parcel deliveries within the Community.

At its meeting of 25/26 January 1983 the Committee on Transport decided to draw up a report on this subject and appointed Mr MORELAND rapporteur.

The Committee on Transport decided at the meetings listed below to consider within the framework of this report the following motions for resolutions tabled pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, which had been referred to it as committee responsible:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22 September 1983 | motion by Mr Christopher JACKSON on EEC inter-State telephone and postal rates (Doc. 1-592/83); |
| 1 December 1983 | motion by Mr VON WOGAU and others on the application of inland postal rates to certain mail between Member States (Doc. 1-964/83). |

The committee considered the subject of the draft report at its meetings of 16 February 1983 and 29 February 1984, and at the latter meeting it adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Mr SEEFELD, chairman; Mr MORELAND, rapporteur; Mr ALBERS, Mr KEY, Mr KLINKENBORG, Mr LOO and Mr PANNELLA (deputizing for Mr SKOVMAND).

The report was tabled on 6 March 1984.

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

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The Committee on Transport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on postal charges in the Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motions for a resolution tabled by:

Mr HABSBERG and others on the tariffs for parcel deliveries within the Community (Doc. 1-787/81),

Mr Christopher JACKSON on EEC inter-State telephone and postal rates (Doc. 1-592/83),

Mr VON WOGAU and others on the application of inland postal rates to certain mail between Member States (Doc. 1-964/83),

- having regard to the report on the European postage stamp by Mr D. SCHINZEL (Doc. 1-524/82),

- having regard to the report drawn up by Mr MORELAND on behalf of the Committee on Transport (Doc. 1-1539/83),

- A. recalling the Commission recommendations of May 1979 on the application of inland postal rates to certain mail between Member States;
- B. noting that only four Member States apply the Commission recommendation in full and that three Member States still maintain a distinction between inland letter rates and rates to other Member States;
- C. noting the different weight bands applied by Member States for postal rates;
- D. noting the different structures, philosophy and objectives of the postal authorities in the Member States;

- E. noting that there is no Commission recommendation as regards rates for parcels, newspapers and magazines and that most Member States apply a distinction between inland rates and rates to other Member States;
1. reminds the Council that ministers responsible for posts noted in December 1977 that the application of internal rates of letters up to 20 grams between all Member States was 'an objective whose realization would have political impact inasmuch as the public would be made more aware of the realization of European endeavour';
 2. calls on all the Member States to review all postal rates with the objective of removing any distinction between inland rates and rates to other Member States for all mail services;
 3. believes that there should be a consistent approach to all categories of post and consequently calls on the Commission to review its recommendation to cover all categories of mail;
 4. believes that any variation in charges should reflect cost and not political boundaries;
 5. believes that a common approach to postal charges would be more closely achieved if all postal authorities had as their main objectives efficiency and the consumer interest rather than political objectives other than European integration;
 6. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION DOCUMENT 1-787/81

tabled by Mr HABSBURG, Mr Ingo FRIEDRICH, Mr KLEPSCH,
Mr AIGNER, Mr d'ORMESSON, Mrs RABBETHGE, Mr Karl FUCHS,
Mr JANSSEN VAN RAAY, Mr HAHN, Mrs SCHLEICHER,
Mr JAKOBSEN, Mr GOPPEL, Mrs MOREAU, Mr ALBER,
Mr DALSSASS, Mr SCHALL, Mr von BISMARCK and Mr ESTGEN

on behalf of the European People's Party
(Christian-Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the tariffs for parcel deliveries within the
Community

The European Parliament,

- whereas it is its duty under the Treaty of Rome to bring the unification of Europe nearer to its citizens,
 - determined to use all possible means to dismantle outdated barriers within the European Community,
 - whereas it is required to treat all geographical areas of the Community as 'inland' areas in all matters,
1. Calls on the governments of the ten Member States of the Community to introduce the inland tariff applicable to letters for packages and parcels weighing up to two kilogrammes;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION DOCUMENT 1-592/83

tabled by Mr Christopher JACKSON

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on EEC Inter-State Telephone and postal charges

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the preamble to the Treaty of Rome which calls for "concerted action to guarantee steady expansion, balanced trade and fair competition" and is "desirous of contributing to the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade",
 - B. having regard to Article 3, 5, and 5 in particular of the Treaty of Rome which call inter alia for a system in which competition in the common market is not distorted, and for the cooperation of Member States,
 - C. having regard to the Commission's reply to Written Question No. 191/82 stating that the "Commission's departments are examining whether and, if so, to what extent a legal instrument might be resorted to with a view to achieving the objective" of postal harmonisation,
 - D. recognising that postal and telephone services are essential to trade and commerce but that higher charges between than within Member States have the effect of putting commercial communication between Member States at a relative disadvantage,
 - E. believing that measures should be taken by the European Community to coordinate charges in tariffs by the national authorities where these relate to communication between Member States, with a view to
 - progressively reducing the postal premium on inter-state communication
 - making the cost of inter-state telephone calls depend more on distance than on the fact that a state boundary has been crossed,
1. Calls on the European Commission to propose a directive which gives it a coordinating role on inter-state postal and telephone charges;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, Council and Governments of Member States.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION DOCUMENT 1-964/83

tabled by Mr von WOGAU, Mr HERMAN, Mr von BISMARCK,
Mr KALOYANNIS, Mr MACARIO, Mr RYAN, Mr ESTGEN, Mr BROK,
Mr BEUMER, Mr WEDEKIND, Mr SEITLINGER and Mr K-H.
HOFFMANN

on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party
(CD Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the application of inland postal rates to certain
mail between Member States

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the importance of postal services for the economic development of the Community and particularly for the transport of goods within the Community,
 - B. wishing to use the postal services as a further means of increasing public awareness in the Member States of the identity of the European Community and thereby also to promote cultural exchanges,
 - C. having regard to the considerable structural differences between the postal administrations in the various Member States,
 - D. having regard to the Commission Recommendation of 29 May 1979 on the application of inland postal rates to certain mail between Member States,
1. Calls on the United Kingdom, Ireland and Greece to comply with the Commission Recommendation of 29 May 1979 immediately;
 2. Calls for wider use of inland postal rates for mail within the Community on letters of up to 50 g, printed matter of up to 50 g, newspapers and magazines;
 3. Expects the Commission and Council to reach appropriate decisions in response to the wish expressed in paragraph 2.

