

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

6 February 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1353/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets
on the proposals from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council

(Docs. COM(83) 696, 697 and 698 final -
Doc. 1-1236/83) for

- I. a regulation establishing special measures of
Community interest in the field of employment
- II. a regulation establishing special measures of
Community interest relating to transport
infrastructure
- III. a regulation establishing special measures of
Community interest relating to energy strategy

Rapporteur: Mrs C. SCRIVENER

By letter of 20 December 1983, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposals for Council regulations establishing special measures of Community interest in the field of employment; establishing special measures of Community interest relating to transport infrastructure; establishing special measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy.

On 16 January 1984 the President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, the Committee on Transport and the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology for opinions.

At its meeting of 16 January 1984 the Committee on Budgets confirmed Mrs SCRIVENER, rapporteur on Section III 'Commission' of the 1984 budget, as rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposals at its meetings of 25 and 30 January 1984.

At the latter meeting the Committee on Budgets decided to recommend that Parliament approve the Commission's proposal with the amendments set out below.

The committee decided to reserve the possibility of proposing that Parliament apply Rule 36(2) of the Rules of Procedure.

The committee adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole by 10 votes to three with one abstention.

Present: Mr LANGE, chairman, Mr NOTENBOOM, first vice-chairman, Mrs BARBARELLA, second vice-chairman, Mrs SCRIVENER, rapporteur, Mr ADONNINO, Mr ARNDT, Lord DOURO, Mr GOUTHIER, Mr KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mr LANGES, Mr NEWTON-DUNN, Mrs NEYBOUT, Mrs NIKOLAOU and Mr SIMONNET.

The opinions of the Committee on Transport and of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology are attached.

The opinion of the Committee on Social Affairs will be published separately.

This report was tabled on 1 February 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report is set out in the draft agenda of the part-session during which it will be considered. PE 88.541/fin.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Proposals for regulations as amended by Parliament	5
A. Motion for a resolution	15
B. Explanatory statement	18
Annex: Opinion of the Committee on Transport	21
Opinion of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology	25

The Committee on Budgets hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments to the Commission's proposals and motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) ESTABLISHING SPECIAL MEASURES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT

Amendments tabled by the Committee on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of the European Communities

Title and preamble unchanged

Amendment No. 1 (first recital of the proposal)

First recital

Whereas the Community should implement common policies to assist Member States in financial imbalance vis à vis the Community which is incompatible with their economic efficiency;

Whereas conditions incompatible with the proper functioning of the Community could arise when a Member States's economy, whilst in a special situation, is forced to bear a disproportionate burden in the financing of the Community budget;

(NEW recital)

Whereas such imbalances should therefore be corrected by expenditure measures within the context of Community policies;

Second recital unchanged

Amendment No. 2 (third recital)

Third recital

Whereas, therefore, it is necessary to establish special measures in the field of employment in the United Kingdom, financed by the Community and associated with Community policies;

Whereas it is necessary to establish special measures of Community interest relating to the field of employment and involving financial contributions from the Community to employment measures in the United Kingdom;

Fourth, fifth and sixth recitals unchanged

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Amendment No. 3 (seventh recital)

Seventh recital

Whereas, without prejudice to the supervision provided for in the Treaties and the Financial Regulation, the implementation of the schemes provided for in the Regulation should be subject to checks by the Commission;

Whereas the Commission should be in a position to check the implementation of the schemes provided for in the

Eighth recital unchanged

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Article 1 unchanged

Amendment No. 4 (Article 2)

Article 2

1. The special measures.....

1. The special measures of Community interest shall be implemented by means of financial assistance for the implementation of schemes which, in pursuit of employment policy objectives reflecting Community priorities as agreed by the Council, particularly in respect of those most affected by the exceptionally high level of unemployment, create additional job opportunities for the currently unemployed. These schemes shall include in particular those which encourage early retirement for older workers and lead to the creation of job opportunities for the persons most seriously affected by high levels of unemployment.

Unchanged.

These schemes shall (one word deleted) in particular (nine words deleted) lead to the creation of job opportunities...

Rest unchanged.

Article 2(2) and (3) unchanged

Article 3 unchanged

Article 4(1) and (2) unchanged

Amendment No. 5 (Article 4(3))

Article 4

3. The Community's overall financial contribution may not exceed for each scheme 50% of the annual public expenditure provided for its execution.

3. The Community's overall financial contribution may not exceed for each scheme 70% of the annual public expenditure provided for its execution.

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Amendment No 6 (Article 4(4))

Article 4

4. Community financial contributions shall
be made only in respect of schemes initiated
after 1 January 1983.

4. No financial contribution shall
be made in respect of expenditure
implemented more than twelve months
before the entry into force of this
Regulation.

Article 4(5) unchanged

Article 5(1) unchanged

Amendment No. 7 (Article 5(2))

Article 5

2. When the implementation of the programme
has already started the advance payment will
be equal to the Community's share of the
amount already undertaken as certified by
the Member State, except that this amount
will not exceed 90 % of the Community's
overall contribution ; the Commission will
first ensure that each programme was
implemented in accordance with this
Regulation.

2. As soon as a decision has been
taken pursuant to Article 4(2), the
Commission shall make a payment of
90% of the amount of the Community
contribution provided for.

In other cases, as soon as the Commission
has taken a decision pursuant to Article
4.2, it will grant an advance of 50 %. A
further advance of 40 % will be granted
once the expenditure on the programme
has been 50 % implemented.

Article 5(3) unchanged

Article 6 unchanged

Amendment No. 8 (Article 7)

Article 7

1. A Consultative Committee (hereinafter
called 'the Committee') is hereby
established, composed of representatives
of the Member States and chaired by a
representative of the Commission.

1. A Management Committee (hereinafter
called 'the Committee') is hereby
established, composed of representatives
of the Member States and chaired by a
representative of the Commission.

Article 7(2) unchanged

Article 8(1) and (2) unchanged

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Amendment No. 9 (Article 8(3))

Article 8

3. When the Committee has delivered its
opinion, the Commission shall adopt
decisions which shall apply immediately.

3. The Commission shall adopt decisions which shall apply immediately. However, if these decisions are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, they shall be communicated to the Council as soon as possible and at the latest within one month. In that event, the Commission shall defer application of the decisions it has adopted for not more than two months from the date of such communication. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within two months.

(Rest of paragraph 3 deleted)

Article 9 unchanged

Amendment No. 10 (Article 10)

Article 10

Twice a year, the Commission shall report
to the Council and to the European
Parliament on the application of this
Regulation.

The Commission shall report to the Council and to the European Parliament on the application of this Regulation.

Article 11 unchanged

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) ESTABLISHING SPECIAL MEASURES OF COMMUNITY
INTEREST RELATING TO TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Title and preamble unchanged

Amendment No. 11 (first recital of the
proposal)

First recital

Whereas the Community should implement
common policies to assist Member States
in financial imbalance vis à vis the
Community which is incompatible with
their economic efficiency;

Whereas conditions incompatible with the proper functioning of the Community could arise when a Member State's economy, whilst in a special situation, is forced to bear a disproportionate burden in the financing of the Community budget;

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

(NEW recital)

Whereas such imbalances should therefore be
corrected by expenditure measures within the
context of Community policies;

Amendment No. 12 (second recital)

Whereas, therefore, it is necessary
to establish special measures of
Community interest relating to trans-
port infrastructure and involving
financial contributions from the
Community to transport infrastructure
projects in Germany and the United
Kingdom;

Second recital

Whereas it is necessary to establish
special measures of Community interest
relating to transport infrastructure
and involving financial contributions
from the Community to transport infra-
structure projects in Germany and the
United Kingdom;

Third recital unchanged

Amendment No. 13 (fourth recital)

Whereas, without prejudice to the super-
vision provided for in the Treaties and
the Financial Regulation, the implementa-
tion of the projects provided for in this
Regulation should be subject to checks by
the Commission.

Fourth recital

Whereas the Commission should be in
a position to check the implementation
of the projects provided for in this
Regulation;

Fifth recital unchanged

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Articles 1, 2 and 3 unchanged

Article 4(1) and (2) unchanged

Amendment No. 14 (Article 4(3))

3. The Community's overall financial
contribution may not exceed for each
scheme 50% of the annual public expen-
diture provided for its execution.

Article 4

3. The Community's overall financial
contribution may not exceed for each
scheme 70% of the annual public expen-
diture provided for its execution.

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Amendment No. 15 (Article 4(4))

4. Community financial contributions
shall be made only in respect of projects
initiated after 1 January 1983.

4. No financial contribution shall
be made in respect of expenditure
implemented more than twelve months
before the entry into force of this
Regulation.

Article 4(5) unchanged

Article 5(1) unchanged

Amendment No. 16 (Article 5(2))

2. When the implementation of the project
has already started the advance payment will
be equal to the Community's share of the
amount already undertaken as certified by
the Member State, except that this amount
will not exceed 90 % of the Community's
overall contribution; the Commission will
first ensure that each project was
implemented in accordance with this
Regulation.

Article 5

2. As soon as a decision has been
taken pursuant to Article 4(2), the
Commission shall make a payment of
90% of the amount of the Community
contribution provided for.

In other cases, as soon as the Commission
has taken a decision pursuant to Article
4.2, it will grant an advance of 50 %. A
further advance of 40 % will be granted
once the expenditure on the project
has been 50 % implemented.

Article 5(3) unchanged

Article 6 unchanged

Amendment No. 17 (Article 7)

1. A Consultative Committee (hereinafter
called 'the Committee') is hereby
established, composed of representatives
of the Member States and chaired by a
representative of the Commission.

Article 7

1. A Management Committee (hereinafter
called 'the Committee') is hereby
established, composed of representatives
of the Member States and chaired by a
representative of the Commission.

Article 7(2) unchanged

Article 8(1) and (2) unchanged

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Amendment No. 18 (Article 8(3))

Article 8

3. When the Committee has delivered its
opinion, the Commission shall adopt
decisions which shall apply immediately.

3. The Commission shall adopt decisions which shall apply immediately. However, if these decisions are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, they shall be communicated to the Council as soon as possible and at the latest within one month. In that event, the Commission shall defer application of the decisions it has adopted for not more than two months from the date of such a communication. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within two months.

(Rest of paragraph 3 deleted).

Article 9 unchanged

Amendment No. 19 (Article 10)

Article 10

Twice a year, the Commission shall report
to the Council and to the European
Parliament on the application of this
Regulation.

The Commission shall report to the Council and to the European Parliament on the application of this Regulation.

Article 11 unchanged

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) ESTABLISHING SPECIAL MEASURES OF COMMUNITY
INTEREST RELATING TO ENERGY STRATEGY

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Title and preamble unchanged

First recital unchanged

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Amendment No. 20 (second recital of the
proposal)

Second recital

Whereas the Community shall implement
common policies to assist Member States
in financial imbalance vis à vis the
Community which is incompatible with
their economic efficiency;

Whereas conditions incompatible with
the proper functioning of the Community
could arise when a Member State's
economy, whilst in a special situation,
is forced to bear a disproportionate
burden in the financing of the
Community budget;

(NEW recital)

Whereas such imbalances should therefore
be corrected by expenditure measures within
the context of Community policies;

Third to sixth recitals unchanged

Amendment No. 21 (seventh recital)

Seventh recital

Whereas, without prejudice to the super-
vision provided for in the Treaties and
the Financial Regulation, the implementa-
tion of the projects and measures provided
for in this Regulation should be subject
to checks by the Commission;

Whereas the Commission should be in
a position to check the implementation
of the projects and measures provided
for in this Regulation;

Eighth recital unchanged

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

Articles 1, 2 and 3 unchanged

Article 4(1) and (2) unchanged

Amendment No. 22 (Article 4)

Article 4

3. The Community's overall financial
contribution may not exceed for each
scheme 50% of the annual public
expenditure provided for its execution.

3. The Community's overall financial
contribution may not exceed for each
scheme 70% of the annual public
expenditure provided for its execution.

Amendment No. 23 (Article 4(4))

4. Community financial contributions shall
be made only in respect of projects and
measures initiated after 1 January 1983.

4. No financial contribution shall
be made in respect of expenditure
implemented more than twelve months
before the entry into force of this
Regulation.

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Amendment No. 24 (Article 4(5))

Article 4

5. Deleted

5. Not less than 20% of the Community's total financial contributions under this Regulation for projects and measures in each country shall be allocated in respect of projects or measures commenced after a date twelve months before the entry into force of this Regulation.

Article 4(6) unchanged

Article 5(1) unchanged

Amendment No. 25 (Article 5(2))

Article 5

2. When the implementation of the project/measure has already started the advance payment will be equal to the Community's share of the amount already undertaken as certified by the Member State, except that this amount will not exceed 90 % of the Community's overall contribution ; the Commission will first ensure that each project/measure was implemented in accordance with this Regulation.

2. As soon as a decision has been taken pursuant to Article 4(2), the Commission shall make a payment of 90% of the amount of the Community contribution provided for.

In other cases, as soon as the Commission has taken a decision pursuant to Article 4.2, it will grant an advance of 50 %. A further advance of 40 % will be granted once the expenditure on the project/measure has been 50 % implemented.

Article 6 unchanged

Amendment No. 26 (Article 7(1))

Article 7

1. A Consultative Committee (hereinafter called 'the Committee') is hereby established, composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission

1. A Management Committee (hereinafter called 'the Committee') is hereby established, composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

Article 7(2) unchanged

Amendments tabled by the Committee
on Budgets

Text proposed by the Commission of
the European Communities

Article 8(1) and (2) unchanged

Amendment No. 27 (Article 8(3))

3. When the Committee has delivered its
opinion, the Commission shall adopt
decisions which shall apply immediately.

(Rest of paragraph 3 deleted)

Article 8

3. The Commission shall adopt decisions which shall apply immediately. However, if these decisions are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, they shall be communicated to the Council as soon as possible and at the latest within one month. In that event, the Commission shall defer application of the decisions it has adopted for not more than two months from the date of such communication. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within two months.

Article 9 unchanged

Amendment No. 28 (Article 10)

Twice a year, the Commission shall
report to the Council and to the
European Parliament on the application
of this Regulation.

Article 10

The Commission shall report to the Council and to the European Parliament on the application of this Regulation.

Article 11 unchanged

A

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- I. a regulation establishing special measures of Community interest in the field of employment
- II. a regulation establishing special measures of Community interest relating to transport infrastructure
- III. a regulation establishing special measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission to the Council (COM(83) 696, 697 and 698 final);
- having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-1236/83);
- having regard to its decisions taken in connection with the budget of the European Communities for 1984;
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and the opinions of the Committees on Transport and Energy, Research and Technology (Doc. 1-1353/83);
- having regard to the result of the votes on the Commission's proposals;

1. Points out that

- (a) it has always insisted, for example during the consideration and adoption of the 1984 budget, that a lasting solution should be

found to the financial problems affecting some Member States;

(b) it has noted, in its resolution of 15 December 1983 on the draft budget for 1984, that the European Council in Athens 'failed to provide an answer to the financial problems of the Community';

(c) it has declared that, to avoid discrimination against any of the Member States, a permanent solution must be found before 31 March 1984;

2. Believes that, in order not to obstruct the Community's work, an opinion should be delivered on these proposals, provided they are appreciably modified, however, so as to place the special measures in the context of Community policies;
3. Points out that no proposal for a regulation has been submitted by the Commission for intervention in the sector of urban concentrations as indicated by Parliament, and therefore calls upon the Commission to make good this omission as rapidly as possible;
4. Amends the three proposals to this end, with a view to:
 - putting aside any notion of a 'juste retour' and any principle relating to the idea of a net contribution by Member States to the Community budget, which would undermine the financial autonomy of the Community;
 - affirming that positions of financial imbalance incompatible with economic efficiency of the Member States referred to, should be balanced by expenditure measures within the context of Community policies;
 - providing financial assistance from the Community for schemes and projects begun after 1 January 1983;
 - altering the nature and the means of payment of the financial assistance in order to provide it in the form of advances and to enable the implementation of the schemes and projects to be monitored effectively; furthermore, refunds at a rate of 90% of Community expenditure are provided for for schemes and projects already financed;

- making provision for the balance of the financial assistance granted to be paid as and when the conditions governing implementation of the schemes and projects approved by the Commission are verified;
 - removing the powers conferred on the management committee, which are incompatible with the Treaties; the committee may not obstruct measures to implement Community policies which are the responsibility of the Commission; it is replaced by a consultative committee;
 - supplementing the machinery for Community controls in such a way that, without prejudice to the powers conferred on the Court of Auditors by the Treaties, the Commission is fully able to monitor the implementation of the schemes and projects being financed;
5. Confirms the non-compulsory nature of the expenditure resulting from these regulations, which is incorporated in the annual budget;
 6. Invites the Court of Auditors to prepare a special report on the effectiveness of these special measures and to report to Parliament, the Council and the Commission in time to allow them to take it into account in future budgets;
 7. Points out to the Commission that it cannot, as in December 1982, carry out cash advances to the Member States concerned before the decisions of the budgetary authority;
 8. Requests its President, in order that Parliament may assert its position fully before the Council, to initiate the conciliation procedure immediately;
 9. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The three proposals for regulations under consideration are concerned with special measures of Community interest in the fields of employment, transport and energy. Their aim is to implement the decision of the European Council in Stuttgart in June 1983 to award financial compensation to the United Kingdom and, as a corollary, to the FRG, for the 1983 financial year.
2. The Stuttgart decision was taken in the context of the decision on the future financing of the Community which was to be taken by the European Council in Athens. Despite the failure of the Athens summit, the States do not apparently intend to discuss the ambiguous agreement reached in Stuttgart again. The European Parliament, for its part, has never disputed the amount involved and has placed the corresponding appropriations under Chapter 100, pointing to its desire to see a lasting settlement to the question of financial compensation measures and stating its firm belief that if all discrimination against any Member State is to be avoided, a final decision must be reached by 31 March 1984.
3. It should also be pointed out that Parliament, when considering SAB 1/82 relating to the same question, stated the principle that the proposed special measures should come within the framework of the existing common policies and that the corresponding appropriations should be classified as NCE.
4. What makes consideration of the proposals for regulations submitted by the Commission particularly important is the fact that it will inform the decisions taken on the transfer of the appropriations entered under Chapter 100 to the operating headings.
5. The three proposals for regulations submitted by the Commission differ as to the aims in view but are identical in respect of the mechanisms chosen. Generally speaking the objectives are those already being implemented under various Community policies, but the implementing rules depart considerably from the procedures generally adopted in the various corresponding regulations.

6. The subject-matter of the provisions under consideration seems to come within the scope of the Community policies. The objective of the 'employment' regulation is close to that of the Social Fund and the regulation reflects the Community's priorities. The inspiration behind the 'energy' regulation comes from the objectives set for the demonstration projects in particular. It is also very close to the regulation on compensatory measures for the 1982 financial year adopted in 1983. The 'transport' regulation takes up the aims of the multi-annual transport infrastructure programme adopted by Parliament in December 1983 and now under consideration by the Council. It is for the committees whose opinion is sought to assess how far these aims can be modified.

7. The procedures for approving projects and for the implementation and monitoring of the special measures are subject to rules which depart considerably from the norm:

- (a) the Commission shall examine the programmes and decide what financial assistance should be given to them (Art. 4), subject to the powers of the specialist management committee (Art. 7 and 8);
- (b) the Community's financial contribution may not exceed 70% of the public expenditure (Art. 4(3));
- (c) the financial contribution may be made in respect of expenditure implemented up to 12 months before the entry into force of the regulations (Art. 4(4));
- (d) approval of a project shall entail the payment of 90% of the Community contribution provided for. The 10% balance shall be paid 'immediately after' the first payment 'has been used up, as certified by the Government concerned', and after on-the-spot checks have been carried out (Art. 5);
- (e) the checking procedures make it very difficult for the Community to recover payments already made when a programme is not implemented in conformity with the regulation (Art. 6);
- (f) in the field of implementation of the regulations, the opinion of the management committee takes precedence over the Commission's decision (Art. 7).

8. The lack of any decisions in Athens on the future financing of the Community and on a lasting solution to the budgetary imbalances places all the Community's institutions in a difficult position. As far as Parliament is concerned, it cannot without aggravating the Community's difficulties, either refuse to recognize the special character of the situation of certain Member States or decline to act to ensure that the financial compensation measures form part of common policies. The search for a middle way whereby a solution acceptable to all sides may be found must be conducted with the following principles in mind:

9.

- (a) any notion of a 'juste retour' and any principle relating to a net contribution to the Community budget by Member States, which would undermine the Community's financial autonomy, must be put aside;
- (b) the Community should implement common policies to help Member States which are in financial imbalance with the rest of the Community which is incompatible with their economic efficiency; these imbalances should be rectified by expenditure measures in the context of Community policies;
- (c) the special measures must be of a Community nature, i.e. they must implement policies which meet the aims set by the Community bodies and be monitored by them; furthermore, they must be applied only to schemes and projects which are new or currently under way;
- (d) the financial rules must be closely modelled on those governing the existing policies, with due consideration being given to the particular situation which has to be dealt with; they must guarantee the Commission and the Court of Auditors all the means required for exercising effective control;
- (e) the role of the management committee must be redefined in keeping with Article 205 of the EEC Treaty.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr LANGE, chairman of the Committee on Budgets

Brussels, 24.1.1984

Mr Erwin Lange
Chairman of the Committee on Budgets
European Parliament
97 - 113, rue Belliard
B - 1040 Brussels

Subject: Consultation on Doc. 1-1236/83

Dear Mr Lange,

The Committee on Transport was asked to deliver an opinion on the Commission proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) establishing special measures of Community interest relating to transport infrastructure, COM (83) 697 final.

The Committee on Transport stated its position on questions relating to this proposal in the opinion drafted by Mr ALBERS on the draft general budget of the European Communities for 1984 (PE 86.185 final) and the report by Mr BAUDIS on the Commission proposal for financial assistance within a multi-annual transport infrastructure programme (Doc. 1-979/83).

Mr ALBERS' opinion argued that from the point of view of the common transport policy, specific criteria defining the degree of importance to the Community of transport infrastructure programmes should also be laid down in the case of special measures benefiting certain Member States in the field of transport infrastructure. This request has been met in the proposal submitted by the Commission. The transport committee has not commented on the budgetary problems arising out of these special payments.

.../..

In Mr BAUDIS' report the committee stressed the need for a definitive decision on the rules for Community assistance for transport infrastructure before adopting the multi-annual programme, which was approved with certain reservations; these rules would have to contain sufficient objective criteria to enable the benefit to the Community of infrastructure projects to be ascertained, in a uniform procedure applying cost-benefit methods of analysis to all projects, as a precondition for financial assistance. It follows that although special measures relating to transport infrastructure may certainly help to eliminate bottlenecks in the beneficiary regions, they are not in line with the committee's long-term view of transport infrastructure policy, in which all the regions of the Community are treated in a balanced way.

The Committee on Transport consequently takes the view that special measures relating to transport infrastructure taken for budgetary reasons compatible with the objectives of the common transport policy where they are restricted to a few special cases and in their application take into account the criteria concerning Community interest of transport infrastructure projects.

At its meeting of 24 January the Committee on Transport instructed me to convey these comments to you as the opinion of the committee.

Yours sincerely,

Horst SEEFELD

¹The following took part in the vote:
Mr Seefeld (chairman), Dame Shelagh Roberts (vice-chairman), Mr Albers, Mrs von Alemann, Mr Arndt (deputizing for Mr Klinkenborg), Mr Battersby (deputizing for Mr Cottrell), Mr Gabert, Mrs Hammerich (deputizing for Mr Skovmand), Mr Martin, Mr Marshall, Mr Moorhouse, Mr Harmar-Nicholls, Mr Ripa di Meana, Mrs Scamaroni and Mr Vandewiele



Luxembourg, 26 January 1984

De Europæiske Fællesskaber
EUROPA-PARLAMENTET

Europäische Gemeinschaften
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT

Ευρωπαϊκές Κοινότητες
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ

European Communities
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Communautés Européennes
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

Comunità Europee
PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

Europese Gemeenschappen
EUROPEES PARLEMENT

Committee on Transport
The Chairman

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Transport on the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing special measures of Community interest relating to transport infrastructure - COM(83) 697 final

Dear Mr Chairman,

Following discussions with some members of the Committee on Budgets, I should like to make the following explanatory remarks on the opinion delivered by the Committee on Transport on the above proposal in its letter of 24 January 1984.

In its opinion, the Committee on Transport deliberately avoided specifying projects which would be eligible for any special Community measures in the field of transport infrastructure in certain Member States. The committee believes that it is primarily a task for the Commission to select projects on the basis of objective criteria which can be applied to every case eligible for Community support. This view, which is expressed for example in the BAUDIS Report (Doc. 1-979/83) applies just as much to special measures as to Community contributions on the basis of Article 781 of the budget.

In Article 2(1) of its draft regulation on special measures relating to transport infrastructure, the Commission sets out a number of objectives for selecting projects, such as the elimination of notorious bottlenecks, improvement of long distance rail transport, particularly combined transport, improvement of traffic links between the outlying zones, better inter-linking of different modes of transport and modernization of the inland waterways system.

These objectives are identical to those which were largely approved by the European Parliament in its resolution of 15 December 1983 on a proposal for a regulation adopting a multiannual programme in transport infrastructures based on the BAUDIS Report.

At the same time the European Parliament qualified these objectives by insisting that as part of the preparations for policy decisions on aid to transport infrastructure projects from Community resources, the short, medium and long term common benefits of these projects would have to be analyzed in a cost-benefit analysis based on objective criteria common to all projects.

The procedure for a cost benefit analysis at Community level has still to be developed. Recognizing this, the European Parliament accepted as part of a multiannual transport infrastructure programme a two year transitional period before such cost-benefit analyses became binding. During this transitional period projects are to be selected in accordance with the objectives described by the Commission.

Since then the Commission has had an opportunity to develop a suitable cost-benefit analysis procedure and in the report by Mr KLINKENBORG on transport infrastructure measures which was adopted by the Committee on Transport on 23 January 1984, the Commission was instructed to carry out pilot studies on projects which had reached an advanced stage of planning.

At the present time, therefore, the objectives set out by the Commission in Article 2(1) of its proposal for a regulation on special measures relating to transport infrastructure may be regarded as adequate criteria for Community interest.

This is why in my letter of 24 January 1984 I said that the request for specific criteria deciding the degree of importance to the Community of projects had been met in the Commission proposal. Of course, as I also pointed out, there is a need to ensure that the Commission actually applies these criteria when implementing the proposal.

Even if this ensures as far as possible with the techniques currently available that the special measures proposed will be used to aid transport infrastructure projects which serve the interests of the common transport policy, we have one further reservation.

Under the long term concept of the Committee on Transport (which includes adequate cost-benefit analysis) transport infrastructures of interest to the Community would be developed in all Member States in fair proportion. Special measures which only refer to individual Member States must therefore be restricted to exceptional cases as this could otherwise lead to a lack of balance in the development of the Community transport system.

This is why the Committee on Transport observed that the special measures proposed were compatible with the objectives of the common transport policy in so far as they were restricted to a few special cases.

(sgd) Horst SEEFELD

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

Letter from the chairman of the Committee to Mr Lange, chairman of the Committee on Budgets

Brussels, 28.1.1984

Subject : Opinion of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology on the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing special measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy (Doc. 1-1236/83)

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 25 January 1984 the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology considered the above-mentioned document. Once again the Committee was obliged to note the short time permitted for its examination of the proposal and would reserve its judgement on the functioning of those special measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy until, together with the Committee on Budgetary Control, it has had time to assess the application of past measures.

You will recall that in delivering its opinion¹ on the previous proposals in January 1983, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology laid down guidelines for the measures which it believed should be new and innovative and should fit in entirely with general Community policy in the energy sphere. The list of projects already approved does not clearly establish that these criteria are fully met.

For this reason the Committee would make the following remarks which it would wish to see reflected in the motion for a resolution.

1. The Committee once again regrets that the increasing resources devoted towards energy policy should be destined for two particular Member States.
2. The Committee believes that the ceiling for the overall financial contribution of the Community of 70% of annual public expenditure for each project or measure - a ceiling which is considerably higher than that normally applying to Community financial contributions - should pave the way for greater Community participation in projects decided under general policies.

¹ PE 82.819/def.

.../...

3. The Committee notes that whereas in the original Decision the Commission was instructed to report to Parliament every six months on the application of the regulation

the wording of Article 10 in the new proposal does not commit the Commission to report at any particular stage of the application of the regulation: the Committee believes that the regulation should therefore be amended to oblige the Commission to report every six months, and the Commission should commit itself to adhere to this deadline.

4. The Committee recognised that an attempt has been made in Article 2 of the proposal to take account of Parliament's priorities in the guidelines for selecting projects. However, the wording of Article 2 does not provide a sufficient guarantee that projects be new and innovative and fit in with Community objectives. For this reason the Committee would suggest that Article 2 be amended to read as follows:

"1. The special measures of Community interest shall be implemented by means of financial assistance for the implementation of projects and measures which contribute towards Community energy policy objectives.

The following activities, by way of example, would qualify for financial assistance:

- a. Investment in the rational use of energy
- b. Modernisation and construction of coal-fired power stations, with special reference to environmental considerations
- c. Measures in the solid fuels sector including aids to investment, intra-Community trade in coking coal and operations relating to the reduction of coal stocks
- d. New coal technologies demonstration projects
- e. Alternative and renewable energy projects
- f. Fast breeder reactor development
- g. Fusion technology
- h. Coal liquefaction and gasification
- i. Advanced reactors "

Sub-paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 2 should remain unchanged.

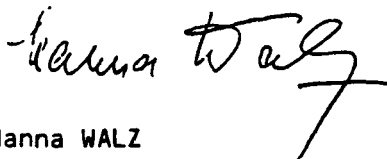
This list, which is not definitive, was approved by the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology in its draft amendment to the Draft General Budget of the European Communities for the Financial Year 1984 (PE 86.118/Am. 12) when it sought to alter the remarks column for Article 707 "Specific Community Measures Relating to Energy Strategy (non-differentiated appropriations)."

.../...

5. Once again the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology insists that the Committee described in Article 7 be an advisory rather than a management body and would suggest that Article 7 be amended as a consequence.

6. With these comments and suggested amendments, the Committee could give its approval to the proposal for a Council regulation subject to its subsequent assessment of the functioning of the previous regulation.

Yours faithfully,



Hanna WALZ

The following took part in the vote: Mrs Walz, Chairman; Mr Gallagher, Vice-Chairman; Mr Adam, Mr Bernard, Mr Calvez (deputizing for Mr Pintat), Mr de Courcy Ling (deputizing for Mr Seligman), Mr Del Duca, Mr Flanagan, Mr K. Fuchs, Mr Linkohr, Mr Normanton, Mr Pedini, Mr Purvis, Mr Rinsche, Mr Rogers (deputizing for Mr Halligan), Mr Salzer, Sir Peter Vanneck and Mrs Viehoff (deputizing for Mr Rogalla).

