

Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a consultation procedure and creating a committee for transport infrastructure

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council on 5 July 1976)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 75 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the implementation of the common transport policy involves the establishment of Community measures aiming at the coordinated development of links within the Community;

Whereas these measures must be based on information concerning the plans and programmes for developing transport infrastructures and concerning projects of Community interest; whereas they must take account of all the factors contributing to the assessment of infrastructure requirements, and notably the broad lines of the regional development programmes;

Whereas the projects of Community interest should be submitted to a consultation procedure;

Whereas it is appropriate to have certain information concerning the basic ideas of infrastructure plans and programmes and the idea of projects of Community interest;

Whereas it is necessary to set up an organizational framework to guarantee the effectiveness, consistency and continuity of these measures;

Whereas it is necessary to compile a report on the various aspects of these measures at regular intervals and draw up guidelines for the Member States,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Decision:

1. Plans and programmes are defined as any overall framework for future work in the field of

infrastructure serving as a guide for action by the Governments of the Member States.

2. A project of Community interest is defined as any project aimed to create new lines of communication or to appreciably increase the capacity of existing lines belonging to one of the following categories:
 - (a) cross-frontier projects;
 - (b) projects of one Member State likely to affect the trade of one or more Member States with this Member State, with other Member States or with non-member countries;
 - (c) projects improving access to outlying or less developed regions;
 - (d) projects likely to have an appreciable influence on the effectiveness of a common policy;
 - (e) projects which make use of new transport technologies which could be used for long-distance inter-urban transport.

Article 2

1. The Member States shall notify the Commission, prior to the start of their construction, of projects of Community interest and their plans and programmes for developing transport infrastructures.

2. The notification can concern both projects which have received the approval of the authorities for construction and those which have yet to be the subject of a declaration of intent to proceed.

3. A project notified at an early stage of its development shall be subject to further notification at a later date as its development proceeds.

Article 3

If the Commission considers such action appropriate, or if requested to do so by a Member State, it shall engage in consultation with the Member States on the project or projects of Community interest of which it has been notified in accordance with Article 2 of this Regulation.

Article 4

A committee for transport infrastructure, henceforth 'the Committee', shall be established at the Commission, consisting of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

Article 5

The Committee, in order to contribute to the harmonious development of the Community transport network, shall undertake the following tasks:

1. The Committee shall serve as the basis for the consultation on projects of Community interest referred to in Article 3.
2. On the request of the Commission, or on its own initiative, the Committee shall organize:
 - (a) an exchange of information on the plans and programmes for transport infrastructure and also on the projects of transport infrastructure of Community interest which have been notified;
 - (b) examination of the selection methods and criteria applied to transport infrastructure investments with a view to their harmonization and the establishment of a joint system;
 - (c) an analysis of the results of forecasting studies for freight and passenger traffic and the determination of the constraints and objectives of the various policies, notably regional development, to be integrated in the transport infrastructure measures;
 - (d) investigation of how the projects, plans and programmes diverge from the forward studies and Community requirements;
 - (e) detailed examination of any other question relative to the development of a Community network of transport links.
3. The Committee shall provide an opinion on the periodic report referred to in Article 8.

Article 6

The Member States shall each appoint a member of the Committee and a deputy. The members of the Committee may be assisted by experts whom they may nominate. The members of the Committee and their deputies are to be selected from the senior officials responsible for transport infrastructure policy in their country.

The Commission shall chair the Committee and be responsible for any work it requires to undertake.

Article 7

The Committee may entrust the study of specific questions to working parties, consisting of some of its members or deputies or government experts.

Article 8

Every three years the Commission shall forward to the Council a report on the information it has received in conformity with this resolution and the Committee's activities. The report shall include in particular the results of consultations on the projects of Community interest and, if the case arises, observations to inform the Member States of the Community's infrastructure requirements.

The Commission shall forward the draft report for the opinion of the Committee referred to in Article 3.

Article 9

This Decision cancels and replaces the provisions of the Council Decision of 28 February 1966 instituting a procedure for consultation in respect of transport infrastructure investment.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.