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Committee on Regional Development

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DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the dock dues in the French outermost regions
(COM(2014)0666 – C8-0242/2014 – 2014/0308(CNS))

Committee on Regional Development

Rapporteur: Iskra Mihaylova

(Simplified procedure – Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure)

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ■ symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the dock dues in the French outermost regions

(COM(2014)0666 – C8-0242/2014 – 2014/0308(CNS))

(Special legislative procedure – consultation)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2014)0666),
 - having regard to Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C8-0242/2014),
 - having regard to Rules 59 and 50(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Development (A8-0000/2014),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to substantially amend the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Council Decision 2004/162/EC of 10 February 2004 (as amended by Council Decisions 2008/439/EC of 9 June 2008 and 448/2011/EU of 19 July 2011), adopted on the basis of Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty (now Article 349 TFEU), authorised France, until 1 July 2014, to apply exemptions or reductions to the ‘dock dues’ tax for a number of products produced in the French outermost regions (excluding Saint Martin), in order to offset the handicaps affecting the concerned outermost regions (remoteness, raw-material and energy dependence, small size of small market and low level of export activity), and to support their competitiveness and social and economic development.

France had requested that a system of differentiated taxation similar to the above-mentioned system be maintained until 31 December 2020. However, the Commission considered that the analysis of the lists of products to which France wanted to apply a differentiated taxation system was a lengthy process, which could not be completed before the expiry of Decision 2004/162/EC, i.e., 1 July 2014. Thus, in order to enable the Commission to finalise the assessment of the French request, the Council Decision 378/2014/EU of 12 June 2014 extended the period of application of Council Decision 2004/162/EC by 6 months until 31 December 2014.

Upon the conclusion of that assessment by the Commission, the purpose of the proposal now submitted is to establish a new legal framework for the dock dues from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020, by determining the products to which tax exemptions and reductions may be applied. Although the products included in the new list are mostly similar to those which are listed in the Annex to Council Decision 2004/162/EC, some new products were introduced while others have been withdrawn.

The Commission proposal also foresees extending Decision 2004/162/EC by a further six months (until 30 June 2015) in order to give France time to transpose the provisions of the new Council Decision into its national law for the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020.

Considering that this measure is justifiable and intends at continuing to stimulate economic activity and competitiveness in the outermost regions, while not undermining the coherence of the internal market and of the EU legal order, the Chair proposes that this proposal be adopted without amendment, in accordance with Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure.