

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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**A5-0220/2003**

13 June 2003

**\*\*\*II**

## **RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING**

on the Council common position for adopting a European Parliament and Council regulation on the granting of Community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system ("Marco Polo programme")  
(5327/1/2003 – C5-0225/2003 – 2002/0038(COD))

Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism

Rapporteur: Philip Charles Bradbourn

***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*I Cooperation procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*II Cooperation procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position  
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend  
the common position*
- \*\*\* Assent procedure  
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases  
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and  
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- \*\*\*I Codecision procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position  
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend  
the common position*
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

***Amendments to a legislative text***

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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## PROCEDURAL PAGE

At the sitting of 25 September 2002 Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation on the granting of Community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system ("Marco Polo programme") (COM(2002) 54 - 2002/0038 (COD)).

At the sitting of 15 May 2003 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism (5327/1/2003 - C5-0225/2003).

The committee had appointed Philip Charles Bradbourn rapporteur at its meeting of 21 February 2002.

It considered the common position and draft recommendation for second reading at its meeting of 12 June 2003.

At this meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution by 46 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Luciano Caveri, chairman; Rijk van Dam and Helmuth Markov, vice-chairmen; Philip Charles Bradbourn, rapporteur; Emmanouil Bakopoulos, Carlos Bautista Ojeda (for Josu Ortuondo Larrea), Rolf Berend, Luigi Cocilovo, Gerard Collins, Jan Dhaene, Den Dover (for Jacqueline Foster), Alain Esclopé, Giovanni Claudio Fava, Markus Ferber (for Reinhard Rack), Jean-Claude Fruteau (for Danielle Darras), Mathieu J.H. Grosch, Konstantinos Hatzidakis, Ewa Hedkvist Petersen, Juan de Dios Izquierdo Collado, Georg Jarzembowski, Elisabeth Jeggle (for Dana Rosemary Scallon), Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Giorgio Lisi, Nelly Maes, Sérgio Marques, Emmanouil Mastorakis, Erik Meijer, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Enrique Monsonís Domingo, Francesco Musotto, James Nicholson, Wilhelm Ernst Piecyk, Giovanni Pittella (for Garrelt Duin), Samuli Pohjamo, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, Carlos Ripoll y Martínez de Bedoya, Agnes Schierhuber (for Christine de Veyrac), Ingo Schmitt, Renate Sommer, Dirk Sterckx, Ulrich Stockmann, Margie Sudre, Hannes Swoboda (for Gilles Savary), Joaquim Vairinhos, Ari Vatanen, Mark Francis Watts and Brigitte Wenzel-Perillo (for Felipe Camisón Asensio).

The recommendation for second reading was tabled on 13 June 2003.

## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the Council common position for adopting a European Parliament and Council regulation on the granting of Community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system ("Marco Polo programme") (5327/1/2003 – C5-0225/2003 – 2002/0038(COD))**

**(Codecision procedure: second reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Council common position (5327/1/2003 – C5-0225/2003),
  - having regard to its position at first reading<sup>1</sup> on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2002) 54<sup>2</sup>),
  - having regard to Article 251(2) of the EC Treaty,
  - having regard to Rule 78 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism (A5-0220/2003),
1. Approves the common position;
  2. Notes that the act is adopted in accordance with the common position;
  3. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council pursuant to Article 254(1) of the EC Treaty;
  4. Instructs its Secretary-General duly to sign the act and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to have it published in the Official Journal of the European Communities;
  5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> .P5\_TA PROV(2002)0440.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 126, 28.5.2002, p. 354.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The proposed Regulation establishes a financial instrument for actions to reduce road congestion and improve the environmental performance of the transport system over the period 2003 to 2010. On 25 September 2002 the European Parliament adopted 27 amendments to the Commission proposal at first reading.

In November 2002 the Danish Council presidency suggested that the three institutions (Parliament, Council and Commission) hold an informal trialogue in order to facilitate decision-making in the Council itself and to avoid a lengthy second or even third reading, thus ensuring a timely entry into force of the Marco Polo programme.

This informal trialogue took place on 27 November 2002. The basis for discussion was a draft Common position text together with the amendments adopted by Parliament. The presidency explained the Council's difficulties to reach internal agreement on the programme's budget. The Council's main request was therefore for the Parliament's support to reduce the budget from € 115 million for a period of 5 years to € 75 million for a period of 4 years. The presidency explained that several Member states wanted to reduce the budget even further and that these states would only be able to support the € 75 million budget within the framework of an overall compromise between the institutions.

Parliament's delegation, composed of the rapporteur, shadow rapporteurs and the Committee chair, favoured a more substantial budget but understood the Council's difficulties and agreed on the proposed reduction. In return for its agreement Parliament asked the Council to incorporate the following main EP amendments in its Common position:

### ***1. Reduction of the minimum subsidy thresholds (EP am 14, 21, 24)***

The programme should in the Parliament's view also enable smaller innovative projects, e.g. those proposed by a consortium of SME's. Therefore it proposed a reduction in the minimum subsidy thresholds for each of the three categories of actions thus halving the amounts proposed by the Commission.

### ***2. Intermodal transport and reducing congestion (EP am 5, 7, 17)***

Enhancing intermodal transport and reducing congestion in road transport are important goals of the Marco Polo programme. This should be clearly reflected in the regulation.

### ***3. Expanding existing services (EP am 15)***

Marco Polo should not only encourage new activities but also the expansion and development of existing activities promoting waterborne or rail transport. The minimum subsidy threshold for this type of action should be € 250.000.

#### ***4. Reimbursement (EP am 23)***

Expenditure incurred as of the date the submission of an application in the selection procedure is reimbursable. However, it should be made very clear that payments will only be made when "final approval for Community funding is given".

The Council Presidency showed its willingness to convince the other Member States to incorporate all these points in the Common position within the framework of an overall compromise. However, on two points the Presidency finally did not get the support from the majority in the Council. This concerns point 3 (expanding existing services) which is only partially reflected in the Common position, and the Parliament's request to delete a recital introduced by the Council on the internalisation of external costs (recital 11). The EP questioned the necessity of this additional recital, since it was not pertinent to the programme itself.

Your rapporteur deplores the fact that the two points mentioned are not reflected in the Council's Common position. However, in order to enable the Marco Polo programme to launch its calls for tender as soon as possible, your rapporteur proposes to accept the Council's Common position without amendments.