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A7-0199/2011

30.5.2011

REPORT

on the proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 2004/162/EC as regards the products that may benefit from exemption from or a reduction in dock dues
(COM(2010)0749 – C7-0022/2011 – 2010/0359(CNS))

Committee on Regional Development

Rapporteur: Elie Hoarau

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

In amendments by Parliament, amendments to draft acts are highlighted in bold italics. Highlighting in normal italics is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the draft act which may require correction when the final text is prepared – for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a language version. Suggested corrections of this kind are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

The heading for any amendment to an existing act that the draft act seeks to amend includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend. Passages in an existing act that Parliament wishes to amend, but that the draft act has left unchanged, are highlighted in bold. Any deletions that Parliament wishes to make in such passages are indicated thus: [...].

CONTENTS

	Page
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6
PROCEDURE.....	7

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 2004/162/EC as regards the products that may benefit from exemption from or a reduction in dock dues (COM(2010)0749 – C7-0022/2011 – 2010/0359(CNS))

(Special legislative procedure – consultation)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2010)0749),
 - having regard to Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C7-0022/2011),
 - having regard to Rule 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Development (A7-0199/2011),
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 substantially to 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

Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (former Article 229(2) of the EC Treaty) authorises the Council, on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting Parliament, to adopt specific measures for the benefit of the Union's outermost regions, taking account of their social and economic situation. The fact that these regions are permanently disadvantaged by their insularity, remoteness from major markets, small size, difficult topography and climate and their economic dependence on a small number of products severely hinders their development and fully justifies the implementation of specially tailored measures.

Such is the basis for the so-called 'dock dues' system, under which France is authorised, until 1 July 2014, to apply differential rates of the tax known as 'dock dues' to certain products manufactured in its four overseas departments (ODs).

This report on the dock dues system follows the submission by France of a mid-term report on its implementation, in accordance with Article 4 of Decision 2004/162/EC. The impact of the system was found to have been largely positive in terms of the objectives set out in that decision, namely to promote or maintain local economic activities, in the light of the handicaps affecting the outermost regions, and to make a positive contribution to maintaining employment.

The Commission proposal, accompanied by a proposal for a Council decision, suggests, in the case of French Guiana, extending the list of products to which differentiated taxation may be applied by some 50 products, on the basis of justifications supplied by the French authorities. The European Parliament approves the Commission proposal without amendment.

The dock dues system is crucially important to the economic stability of the outermost regions concerned. For one thing, it enables local production and employment to be maintained in regions where the rate of unemployment is close to 30%. For another, the revenue from the dock dues – which is allocated to the regions and makes up between 37% and 48% of local authority budgets in the ODs – is intended, and must continue, to underpin policies promoting investment in local development.

Finally, given that the dock dues system as currently implemented is compatible with EU law and that it helps to drive the economies of the ODs, the Commission now needs to consider how to put the measure on a permanent footing from 2014 onwards so that the outermost regions in question do not find themselves subject to economic uncertainty at 10-yearly intervals.

Parliament therefore supports the necessary step of making permanent, as of 2014, the exemptions from or reductions in dock dues granted in the case of the French ODs.

PROCEDURE

Title	Amendment of Decision 2004/162/EC as regards the products that may benefit from exemption from or a reduction in dock dues
References	COM(2010)0749 – C7-0022/2011 – 2010/0359(CNS)
Date of consulting Parliament	18.1.2011
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	REGI 20.1.2011
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	ECON 20.1.2011
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	ECON 18.1.2011
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Elie Hoarau 27.1.2011
(Rule 51 – Joint committee meetings) Date announced in plenary	
Discussed in commission	12.4.2011
Date adopted	26.5.2011
Result of final vote	+: 35 –: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Zuzana Brzobohatá, John Bufton, Alain Cadec, Salvatore Caronna, Francesco De Angelis, Tamás Deutsch, Elie Hoarau, Danuta Maria Hübner, María Irigoyen Pérez, Seán Kelly, Mojca Kleva, Constanze Angela Krehl, Petru Constantin Luhan, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Riikka Manner, Iosif Matula, Erminia Mazzoni, Jan Olbrycht, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Markus Pieper, Georgios Stavrakakis, Nuno Teixeira, Michail Tremopoulos, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Kerstin Westphal
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Karima Delli, Cornelia Ernst, Karin Kadenbach, James Nicholson, Maurice Ponga, Elisabeth Schroedter, László Surján, Patrice Tirolien, Derek Vaughan, Sabine Verheyen
Date tabled	31.5.2011