



22.11.2010

0092/2010

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the establishment of transport links in isolated regions

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Lapse date: 10.3.2011

Written declaration on the establishment of transport links in isolated regions

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region recognises that the European Union Member States in that region are extremely isolated from the rest of the Union in the fields of energy and transport and are the least accessible countries in the Union in terms of both internal and external connections,
- B. whereas the recent crisis in air transport due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland completely isolated the inhabitants of the Western European countries bordering the Baltic Sea because of the inadequate development of rail infrastructure and whereas, unlike the other EU Member States, the Baltic Sea region has no other modes of transport for passengers and goods,
- C. whereas the implementation of the planned transport infrastructure projects would make it possible to guarantee effectively the movement of passengers and goods between the most isolated regions and Western Europe, whereas the Baltic region would become more attractive and accessible and whereas the development of the region's economy and tourism would be encouraged in this way,
- D. whereas rail transport is more ecological and cleaner than road transport and whereas moreover the development of rail infrastructure reduces the number of cars on the roads and the accident rate,
 1. Considers that the time has come to take measures to attain the objectives set in the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, particularly by developing rail infrastructure in the Baltic region, as that region has the least developed transport infrastructure in the whole Union;
 2. Encourages the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the transport infrastructure projects to which priority has been assigned and the allocation of the financing needed for these projects, and to cooperate constructively with the competent institutions of the participating Member States in order to ensure that implementation proceeds according to schedule;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments and governments of the Member States.