

ORAL QUESTION H-0876/00
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2000
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Giorgio Lisi
to the Council

Subject: Council's position on the problems linked with alcohol shipments subject to excise duty

This serious issue is a problem in many Member States (Belgium, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy). Is the Council aware of this, of the costs involved for companies which ship alcohol and of the very high risk of fraud and smuggling?

What improvements does the Council intend to make to the basic directive, 92/12/EEC¹, to ensure that the shipper's and recipient's responsibilities are precisely apportioned, precluding any possibility of fraud?

What is the Council's opinion of the possibility of eliminating this serious problem through computerised monitoring operated by customs authorities in the dispatching country and in the country of arrival or transit? Could this possible solution be put into practice very rapidly, in view of the fact that the Commission has shown particular interest in solving the problem through proposals and high-level groups, and is clearly ready to take firm action in this area?

Tabled: 10.11.2000
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¹ OJ L 76, 23.3.1992, p. 1.