

EUROPAUDVALGET

Alm. del - bilag 5 (offentligt)

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og deres stedfortrædere

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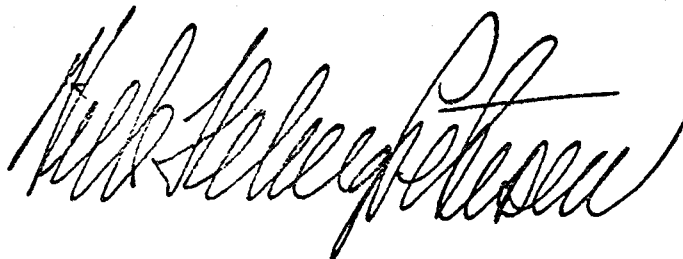
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4. oktober 2000

Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges Trafikministeriets redegørelse fra ekstraordinært rådsmøde (transportministre) den 20. september 2000.





Trafikministeriet

Notat

Dato : 29. september 2000
J.nr. : 121-26
Løbenr. : TM0171

**Referat fra ekstraordinært Rådsmøde (transport) den
20. september 2000**

**Dagsordenpunkt 1 (eneste punkt): Betydningen af situationen på
oliemarkedet for transportpolitikken.**

På mødet orienterede medlemslandene om situationen for vejtrans-
porten i lyset af de stigende brændstofpriser, idet en række lande,
herunder Danmark, understregede, at afgiftsspørgsmål henhører
under rådet af økonomiministre.

1. Formandskabet udarbejdede på basis af drøftelserne vedlagte kon-
klusioner, hvis substansmæssige indhold efter formandskabets op-
fattelse skulle have tilslutning fra de fleste delegationer.

En række lande, herunder Danmark, tilkendegav på mødet, at disse
konklusioner efter deres opfattelse ikke fuldt ud afspejlede den sted-
fundne diskussion.

**IMPACT OF THE SITUATION ON THE PETROLEUM MARKETS ON TRANSPORT
POLICY - PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS**

The Council held a discussion on the impact of the situation on the petroleum markets on transport policy. At the end of this debate, the Presidency drew the following conclusions :

The Presidency notes that delegations:

- are pleased to have had this meeting, which has enabled them to have a full exchange of views during which the need for good coordination between States was emphasised.

With regard to the substance of the discussions, the Presidency noted that most delegations subscribed to the following guidelines:

- they believe that the present level of the price of oil and its sudden and continual fluctuations are having a major impact on the transport sector and are particularly affecting those modes of transport for which fuel is a decisive element in the price of the service provided. These issues need to be taken into account in the common transport policy guidelines;
- they endorse the terms of reference established at the informal meeting of Ministers for Economic Affairs and Finance in Versailles on 9 September;
- they consider that the European Union, as a major customer, "should ask OPEC to introduce measures to supply the market in a manner better suited to consumer demand". In this context, they consider that a framework should be sought for a lasting dialogue between producer and consumer countries to avoid violent price fluctuations tied to the global economic climate;
- they stress the need to pursue and step up the existing efforts to encourage greater development of more environmentally friendly and safer modes of transport;

- they point out that the Cardiff European Council called for the development of a strategy integrating environmental concerns into the common transport policy;
- they call for accelerated introduction of the Trans-European Rail Freight Network (TERFN) and for the development of rolling roads. They hope that the work now under way on the revitalisation of the rail sector will rapidly be completed, in particular the rail transport package, the interoperability Directive, and the TERFN and the conditions for its development, including financing;
- they request that new initiatives be taken to promote combined transport, especially in order to facilitate the necessary investment;
- they consider that the level of and fluctuations in the price of oil are not a matter solely for the oil producers, but also for the other sectors involved in the distribution of fuels. They therefore ask the Commission to continue to ensure that no cartel or arrangement will raise prices at the pump;
- they would like to see the introduction of measures to avoid the distortions of competition on the internal market which might result in particular from differences in working conditions, bearing in mind also competition from third countries. The question of social harmonisation in the transport sector will be further discussed at the Council meeting on 2 October 2000;
- they discussed the importance of the fiscal component in fuel prices, while emphasising that this was a matter for the ECOFIN Council. The Commission stated that, without prejudice to the examination of national measures in accordance with the Treaty, it would continue its examination, in the context of Article 93, of indirect taxation on fuel, remaining consistent with the objectives of the common transport and energy policies and following on from the proposal for a Directive currently under discussion in the ECOFIN Council;
- they note that transport undertakings do not always obtain adequate remuneration of their services from their customers. They consider that balance with regard to undertakings should involve integration of the real cost of fuel into market prices;

- they recommend the setting up of a European forum at the Commission, consisting of representatives of the occupations concerned, company heads, employees, hauliers, customers and experts from the Member States, to examine all the factors affecting the competitiveness of transport and to consider adjustments to the structures in this sector. They called on the Commission to submit a proposal to that effect without delay, with due regard for social, environmental and safety objectives;
 - they call on the Commission and the Member States to take further steps to facilitate appropriate action in support of energy saving and promotion of alternative fuels in the areas of research and innovation, using suitable economic and regulatory instruments;
 - they confirm the need, in the event of obstruction of traffic in a Member State, for an effective mechanism allowing undertakings, the public, the Commission and the other Member States to be immediately informed and specific measures to be taken to remedy such situations, taking into account the arrangements that have existed since 1998;
 - they note that the Commission will be submitting a White Paper on the common transport policy which the Council will discuss before the end of the year.
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