
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 640/78

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and
Transport

on the draft submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the
Council (Doc. 627/78) for a Council recommendation on the ratification of the
International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC)

Rapporteur: Mr W. ALBERS

By letter of 14 February 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the draft submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a recommendation on the ratification of the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC).

The President of the European Parliament referred this draft to the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport.

On 22 February 1979 the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport appointed Mr Albers rapporteur.

It considered this draft at its meeting of 23 February 1979.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport decided to request that the report be considered without debate in plenary sitting.

Present: Lord Bruce of Donington, chairman; Mr Durand, vice-chairman, Mr Albers, rapporteur; Mr Amadei (deputizing for Mr Zagari), Mr Berkhouwer (deputizing for Mr Cifarelli), Mr Brugger, Mr Corrie, Mr Delmotte, Mr Galluzzi (deputizing for Mr Pistillo), Mr Jung, Mr Ligios and Mr Seefeld.

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A

The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the draft submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a recommendation on the ratification of the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft submitted by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to the EEC Treaty (Doc. 627/78),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport (Doc.640/78),

approves the Commission's draft.

¹ OJ No. C 44, 17.2.1979, p.9

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The International Convention for Safe Containers entered into force on 6 September 1977. The object of this convention, concluded in Geneva on 2 December 1972 within the framework of IMCO (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization), is to prevent divergent national safety provisions from hindering the free international movement of containers.
2. The IMCO convention lays down common international safety regulations concerning the manufacture, testing, approval and maintenance of all containers, with the exception of containers specially designed for air transport.
3. Containers meeting the safety norms contained in the convention are given a 'CSC safety approval plate' which renders any further inspection, particularly at frontiers, superfluous.
4. The convention is directly applicable to new containers. For existing containers, i.e. those already in use, there is a time limit of five years from the date of entry into force of the convention or, in other words, 6 September 1982.
5. The present draft recommendation is addressed to those Member States which have not yet acceded to the convention or have not yet ratified it and urges them to do so before the end of this year.
6. So far only France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom have proceeded to ratify the convention. It is understood that ratification will also soon be completed by the Netherlands.

Your rapporteur has been informed by a Commission representative that the other Member States have not yet ratified the convention simply for reasons of internal procedure and thus not because they have any objections to the safety criteria laid down.
7. In addition to the safety considerations, the Commission also advances in support of the draft recommendation its concern to avoid distortions of competition and to ensure a harmonious application of the IMCO provisions within the Community. Furthermore, the Commission hopes in this way to ensure that the Member States will adopt a common position in the event of any review of the Convention within the framework of IMCO.
8. For the reasons set out above the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport is able to approve the draft recommendation and calls upon the Member States to ratify the Convention for Safe Containers at the earliest opportunity.