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Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-527/82

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-407/82 - COM(82) 305 final) for a decision amending Decision 78/640/EEC on financial participation by the Community in inspection and surveillance operations in the maritime waters of Denmark and Ireland

Rapporteur: Mrs N. PERY

By letter of 23 June 1982 the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 78/640/EEC on financial participation by the Community in inspection and surveillance operations in the maritime waters of Denmark and Ireland.

On 24 June 1982 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mrs N. PERY rapporteur.

It considered the Commission proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 12/13 July 1982.

At the same meeting the committee decided by 11 votes and 1 abstention to recommend that Parliament should adopt the Commission's proposal without amendment.

The committee then adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole by 11 votes and 1 abstention.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Früh, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mrs Pery, rapporteur; Mr Battersby, Mr Clinton, Mr Cottrell (deputizing for Mr Howell), Mr Eyraud, Mr Forth (deputizing for Mr Hord), Mr Gautier, Mr Maher, Mr Marck, Mr Nielsen and Mr Thareau.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately.

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for a decision amending Decision 78/640/EEC on financial participation by the Community in inspection and surveillance operations in the maritime waters of Denmark and Ireland

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(82) 305 final)¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-407/82),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-527/82),
- having regard to the result of the vote on the proposal from the Commission,

A having regard to its opinion of 15 June 1978² on the Commission's first proposal for a decision,

B having regard to its resolution of 13 May 1982³ on the coordination of maritime inspection and surveillance operations,

1. Approves the Commission's proposal, but insists that the Irish Government must respect the deadline laid down in the proposal;
2. Recalls that Community aid for the purchase of maritime surveillance equipment must not be limited to Denmark and Ireland but must be extended to any Member State whose maritime surveillance equipment is insufficient or inadequate, having regard to the maritime areas to be covered and taking account of the relative wealth of the Member State in question;

¹ OJ No. C 157, 22.6.1982, p. 6

² OJ No. C 163, 10.7.1978, p. 43 - Doc. 39/78, rapporteur: Mr Corrie

³ OJ No. C 149, 14.6.1982, p. 94 - Doc. 1-183/82, rapporteur: Mrs Pery

3. Calls upon the Member States in general to acquire maritime surveillance equipment manufactured in the Community where this corresponds to their needs, these needs to be determined in common by the Member States;
4. Believes in this respect that the Member States should define by common agreement the specifications to be met by naval or aerial surveillance equipment to be purchased, with a view to lowering the cost price of this equipment through joint standardization measures;
5. Recalls the need for coordination of the maritime inspection and surveillance operations carried out by the Member States, as defined in its opinion of 13 May 1982;
6. Instructs its President to forward to the Commission and the Council the proposal from the Commission as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution as Parliament's opinion.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. On the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Council at The Hague on 3 November 1976, the Commission submitted to the Council on 1 December 1977 a proposal for a decision on financial participation by the Community in inspection and surveillance operations in the maritime waters of Denmark and Ireland¹.

The basic idea of this proposal, drawn from The Hague resolutions, was that Denmark and Ireland should have the means to acquire adequate maritime surveillance facilities to monitor, on the Community's behalf, the implementation of the common policy for the management and conservation of fishery resources in the Community's 200-mile fishing zone, which was established on 1 January 1977 by a joint decision of the Member States.

2. On 15 June 1978 Parliament delivered an opinion on the proposal² on the basis of a report by Mr Corrie (Doc. 39/78).

The Commission's proposal for a decision was adopted by the Council on 25 July 1978³.

3. The Decision required the Community to reimburse, for the period from 1 January 1977 to 31 December 1982, up to 10 million EUA and up to 46 million EUA of the eligible expenditure of Denmark and Ireland respectively.

4. On 15 May 1979 the Commission approved the programmes submitted by the two Member States concerned.

(a) Denmark's programme involved an outlay of 243.9 million Danish kroner (35.09 m EUA) for:

- the purchase of 1 cutter-class coastal inspection vessel with an ice-breaker hull to enable it to patrol in the Arctic waters off Greenland throughout the year;
- the purchase of 7 Westland Lynx helicopters with spare parts;
- the alteration of the surveillance vessels already in service to enable them to carry these new helicopters;

¹ COM(77) 644 final - Doc. 460/77

² OJ No. C 163, 10.7.1978, p. 43

³ Decision 78/640/EEC - OJ No. L 211, 1.8.1978, p. 34

- 1 long-range aircraft capable of patrolling Greenland waters from its base in Denmark;

(b) Ireland's programme involved an outlay of 41.26 million Irish pounds (61.12 m EUA) to bring the following into service:

- 5 vessels, including 2 capable of carrying helicopters;
- 5 medium-range aircraft;
- 2 helicopters.

The Council Decision also authorized Ireland to carry out immediate surveillance operations in its fishing zones by leasing the necessary surveillance craft during the period 1977 to 1979. One converted fishing boat and two short-range aircraft were made available by Ireland for these operations.

5. On 1 January 1982 the Community reimbursed Denmark the total amount of 10 m EUA set aside by the Council Decision for the implementation of its investment programme and, in particular, for the purchase of a cutter-class vessel and seven Westland Lynx helicopters. The Danish Government has also used its own budget to purchase a Grumman Gulfstream III long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft and an extra helicopter and to modernize the electronic equipment of the vessels already in service.

6. On the same date, the Community reimbursed Ireland 26.4 m EUA, or roughly 57% of the amount allocated to it. This reimbursement was for the expenditure incurred in making both the short-term (leasing) arrangements and the medium-term purchases outlined in the above programme.

7. As far as the investments in Ireland's programme are concerned, 3 vessels and 2 aircraft are now in service.

- The vessels (Emer, Aoife and Aisling) are 65 metres long, have a displacement of 1,020 tons and are armed with one 40 mm Bofors cannon and two 20 mm Oerlikon cannon. All three were built in Ireland at Verolme Shipyards.
- The two aircraft are of the Beachcraft King Air 200 type. They are twin turbo-prop aircraft, have a range of between 800 and 1,200 nautical miles and a speed of 260 km/h. They came into service on 9 March 1977 and 1 September 1978 respectively. Their operational base is Baldonnel airport in County Dublin, but they also use Dublin, Cork and Shannon airports where necessary.

8. The expenditure incurred in purchasing these two aircraft has not been reimbursed by the Community, since it was expressly laid down in the Commission Decision of 15 May 1979 that the eligibility of such expenditure would be decided on the basis of a review of the final choice of type of reconnaissance aircraft before payment of the Community's financial contribution.

9. It will be seen from the programme approved by the Commission that Ireland has still to bring into service 2 helicopter-carrying vessels of a particularly sophisticated type, the 2 helicopters to go with those vessels and 3 maritime surveillance aircraft.

In view of the time lost in carrying out the preliminary studies and the difficulties involved in constructing these craft, it will not be possible to bring them into service at an early date.

10. The Commission therefore proposes that Ireland should be allowed two extra years to complete its programme and the deadline changed from 1 January 1983 to 1 January 1985. It also proposes that the advances received by Ireland but not used or insufficiently used should be refunded to the Community.

11. In view of the difficulties experienced by Ireland, the Committee on Agriculture can approve the Commission's proposal, including the obligations it entails. It also considers that the Irish Government should complete its programme not later than 1 January 1985 to ensure that the Community waters off the coast of Ireland are satisfactorily patrolled.

12. The Committee on Agriculture takes the view that the type of Community aid under consideration could be extended to other Member States, taking into account their relative wealth and the maritime areas they have to cover. Following the creation of the Community fishing zone, all the Community Member States should acquire adequate surveillance facilities. The Commission should therefore consider the advisability of extending Community aid to other Member States. It will be noted that this idea was supported by Parliament in its resolution of 13 May 1982¹ on the co-ordination of maritime inspection and surveillance operations.

¹OJ No. C 149 of 14.6.1982, p. 94 - Doc. 1-183/82, rapporteur: Mrs Pery

13. The Committee on Agriculture also takes the view that the Member States should jointly determine their maritime surveillance requirements as well as the specifications to be met by the necessary surveillance equipment, with a view to joint purchases. Such a joint standardization exercise, the results of which would be used by a 'purchasing pool', would lower the cost price of the equipment (especially aircraft) and make surveillance operations more effective, since a larger number of aircraft and helicopters could then be brought into service.

In the matter of purchases, priority should be given to equipment manufactured in the Community insofar as it corresponds to the jointly determined needs of the Member States. Without resorting to protective measures, the application of a 'Community preference' should perhaps be envisaged in this sector.

14. Lastly, while reaffirming the need to establish once and for all a common fisheries policy, the Committee on Agriculture stresses the importance of satisfactory control measures for the implementation of that policy. In this connection, it insists on the need for the maritime inspection and surveillance operations carried out by the Member States to be coordinated, in the spirit of the abovementioned Parliament resolution of 13 May 1982.