Railway transport: licensing of undertakings

1993/0488(SYN) - 21/02/1995

The committee adopted the draft recommendation for the second reading on the Common Position of the Council on the proposal for a Council Directive. At its sitting of 3 May 1994 the EP delivered its first reading on this proposal. In its common position, the Council has substantially changed the Commission proposal and the amendments tabled by Parliament at first reading. These amendments were largely adopted by the Commission. According to the rapporteur, this contradicts with the Commission proposal and Parliament's opinion. He felt that this was unacceptable and had therefore tabled an amenment, calling on the Commission that, should Council not be willing to adopt Parliament's substantive elements, to withdraw the proposal before the Council takes a decision. But the majority of the Committee did not follow the rapporteur and the amendment was not carried after all. The rapporteur only saw part of his amendments adopted. That implies tha tthe Committee will not return to the Commission's wiew of the scope of application of the directive that raiway undertakings newly established in the Community may apply for an operating licence and receive one if they fulfil the requirement. Nor did the majority in the Committee agree with the rapporteur's proposal that there is no need for a special provision concernint the Channel Tunnel, since the use of this tunnel does not concern the licensing of railway undertakings. The Committee preferred to support the Common Position of the Council, that the tunnel should be excluded from the scope of this Directive.