Structural improvements in inland waterway transport (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89)

1995/0120(SYN) - 26/09/1995

The Committee has unanimously adopted the report of Mr. Leen VAN DER WAAL (NL, ENS) on the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 on structural improvements in inland waterway transport. This Regulation seeks to ensure the continuation at EU level of coordinated scrapping schemes to reduce inland shipping overcapacity and thus marks the beginning of structural improvement in this sector after 1995. The object of the amendment is to introduce the temporary co-financing of the scrapping funds with the inclusion of Community contributions. These scrapping funds have hitherto been financed solely by the Member States and with the contributions required by Articles 4 and 8 of the Regulation. In the budget for 1995, 5 mEcu is set aside for participation in the financing of scrapping schemes. The proposed amendment would create the legal basis for the EU's financial participation from 1995 until 1998. Rapporteur VAN DER WAAL recommended the approval of this regulation without amendment. He said yesterday that its sole purpose is to create a legal basis to enable European as well as national resources to be used when vessels are scrapped. This will open the way for the 5 mEcu to be used in this year. The EP has now received the Commission communication on the establishment of an organization of the European inland waterway transport market and accompanying measures. This contains the following proposals: - a proposal for a Council Directive on the systems of chartering and pricing in national and international inland waterway transport in the Community: - a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC)1101/89 on structural improvements in inland waterway transport and - a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 1107/70 on the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway. Mr. VAN DER WAAL explained the Committee that the legal basis for the proposed contributions of European resources towards scrapping activities in 1996, 1997 and 1998 is now provided.