Resolution on the failure to consult Parliament on the Transeuropean transport networks TEN Quick Start project

2004/2519(RSP) - 26/02/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by EPP-ED, PES, ELDR, Greens/ALE and UEN in which it expresses its strong disapproval of the Council having developed a so-called Quick Start Programme on trans-European transport priority projects without consulting the European Parliament. It recalled in the strongest terms that the determination of priority projects in Annex III of Decision No 1692 /96/EC on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network is governed solely by the co decision procedure between Parliament and the Council in accordance with Article 251 of the Treaty. Parliament stressed that any arbitrary setting of priorities with regard to priority projects listed in Annex III is inadmissible and that the timing or funding of the individual projects within Annex III depends solely on the prescribed criteria, such as each project's state of maturity in planning, funding and construction terms. In an oral question to the Council Paola COSTA (ELDR, I), the chairman of the Transport Committee, stressed that the Commission's communication was therefore not a legally binding instrument and that Parliament should not take it into consideration in the context of the current legislative procedure concerning the revision of the TENs guidelines. In the debate, President-in-Office Dick Roche could not convince MEPs that Council had respected the co decision procedure. Although questioned by several Members, the President-in-Office did not want to answer specific questions on the involvement of Parliament. He refused to say whether or not Council had respected the co decision procedure.