Basic information

1997/0012(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Maritime transport: external relations also with international organisations **Subject** 3.20.15.06 Maritime or inland transport agreements and cooperation	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2016	1997-06-17
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2059	1997-12-10

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/03/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0707	Summary
14/05/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
17/06/1997	Debate in Council		
10/12/1997	Debate in Council		
23/07/1999	Additional information		Summary
11/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/12/2001	Additional information		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0012(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 080-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	RETT/4/08908

Documentation gateway

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0707 OJ C 113 11.04.1997, p. 0011	14/03/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0985/1997 OJ C 355 21.11.1997, p. 0025	01/10/1997	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Maritime transport: external relations also with international organisations

1997/0012(COD) - 01/10/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

In its opinion, the ESC agrees entirely with the basic objective of the Communication, namely the liberalization of maritime transport. The Committee shares the purposes and objective aims of Community policy in the field of external relations, which should seek to improve the terms of access to third country markets for the Community shipping industry and to create new opportunities for enterprise and jobs both at sea and in ancillary activities ashore. The Committee goes on to make more specific comments on the various sections of the Communication: - It is cautious about the arguments put forward for strengthening the European Union's role in international organizations through expressing the Community position with a single voice. - It has no objection to the conclusion of bilateral shipping agreements by the EU subject to authorization by the Council, nor to the inclusion of shipping clauses in other types of agreements which the EU concludes from time to time. However, the conclusion of bilateral shipping agreements will take place under ad hoc authorization, on the basis of a specific negotiating mandate and after the necessary prior consultations have taken place between the European Commission, the Member States and the shipping industry. - The ESC thinks in principle that the Member States are entitled to conclude bilateral shipping agreements with third countries as long as their content does not include matters which are regulated by Community acts. - On the revision of Regulations 4057/86/CEE and 4058/86/CEE , it takes the view that, as these regulations are the product of compromises between the Member States and of very delicate balances which would be disturbed if the package were opened up, they should not be modified. Finally, as regards the proposed draft decision to replace Decision 77/587/EEC, the Committee, while agreeing in principle, thinks it necessary to avoid bureaucratic, time-consuming procedures such as those contained in the draft decision presented by the Commission. However, for the EU better to fulfil its mission it is essential to improve the consultation and coordination procedure. The proposed committee should operate not under the authority of the European Commission but as a Council body under the presidency of the Member State currently holding the Council presidency.

Maritime transport: external relations also with international organisations

1997/0012(COD) - 14/03/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: The proposal has two objectives: - to amend Decision 77/587/EEC setting up a consultation procedure on relations between Member States and third countries in shipping matters and on action relating to such matters in international organizations; - to set up a prior authorization and consultation procedure for the negotiation of bilateral agreements concerning trade relations in maritime transport between Member States and third countries. SUBSTANCE: By Decision 77/587/EEC the Community set up a consultation procedure on relations between Member States and third countries in shipping matters and on action relating to such matters in international organizations. 1) A greater role for consultation: the proposal for a decision is intended to widen the scope of the existing procedure by extending consultations and exchanges of information between the Commission and the Member States: - to current developments in relations with third countries in the field of maritime transport (including bilateral agreements being negotiated between a Member State and third country at the date of entry into force of the decision); - to any problem arising in the field relating to trade between the Community and third countries and in trade between third countries (especially matters concerning the provision of maritime transport services, restrictions on market access, or unilateral measures by a third country affecting Community maritime transport activity such as discriminatory treatment at ports or taxation). The negotiation undertaken by the Commission on behalf of the Community in the context of agreements with third countries or within the international organizations are not covered by the proposal. Provision is made for consultation at regular intervals (at least every two months, or at an earlier stage in emergencies or on the request of a Member State or the Commission). 2) Prior authorization procedure: the Commission proposes the institution of a regulatory framework for the negotiation of bilateral maritime transport agreements between Member States and third countries. In particular, the Commission is empowered to authorize the conclusion (or renewal) of such agreements between Member States and third countries. Tacit authorization will also be possible. To this end, the Commission will examine bilateral agreements intended

for negotiation, to determine whether they: - are compatible with Community law or the common maritime transport policy; - constitute any obstacle to that policy or its application. Concerning the examination procedure, it is proposed that a Member State should inform the Commission of the final outcome of the negotiations. Should the Commission raise an objection, the Member State should resume negotiations, taking due account of the Commission's comments or on the basis of any conditions insisted on by it. 3) Common position of the Community: the Commission proposes instituting a procedure for defining a common position of the Community within an international organization on any subject of joint interest. Such a position is to be defined either by the Commission or the Member State occupying the Council presidency, according to whether the subjects concerned fall within the competence of the Community or the Member States. 4) General provisions: a committee will be set up to ensure implementation of the decision. It will consist of representatives of the Member States and will be chaired by a member of the Commission. A report on the functioning of the provisions will be submitted to the Council by 31 December 2000, containing, in particular, an assessment of the consultation procedure and any suggestions for changes to it in the light of experience.