



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

No. prev. doc.: 7021/14 TRANS 104 MAR 37 CODEC 587

No. Cion doc.: 13716/13 TRANS 474 MAR 132 CODEC 2034

Subject: **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 on a Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport**

- **Information from the Presidency**

INTRODUCTION

1. On 10 September 2013, the Commission transmitted the proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council.
2. The proposal forms part of the NAIADES II programme, presented by the Commission in September 2013¹, which focuses on making long-term structural changes in the inland waterway transport sector, to enable it to contribute fully to the Europe 2020 strategy, which aims at smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

¹ Doc. 13721/13, COM(2013) 623 final.

3. Council Regulation (EC) No 718/1999² introduced a fleet capacity regulatory mechanism, aimed at avoiding the emergence of aggravation of fleet overcapacity on the inland waterway market in the EU. One of the measures provided for in the Regulation was the setting up of an Inland Waterway Fund (reserve fund) by Member States with inland waterways linked to those of another Member State and a total fleet tonnage of over 100 000 tonnes. The Member States' reserve funds consist of financial contributions from the inland waterway transport industry and their cumulative value currently amount to around EUR 35 million. However, due to the restricted scope of the reserve funds, they have never been used. The purpose of this proposal is to broaden the scope for using those funds. To that end, the Commission proposes amending Article 8 and including further measures that Member States may finance through the reserve funds, such as measures to encourage the innovation of vessels and their adaptation to technical progress as regards the environment.

WORK WITHIN THE PARLIAMENT

4. The responsible committee of the European Parliament, the Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN), has appointed Ms Corien Wortmann-Kool (EPP-NL) as rapporteur. The TRAN committee voted amendments to the text on 20 February 2014. The European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) adopted an opinion on the text on 13 February 2014 (rapporteur: Ms Jutta Steinruck, S&D-DE).

WORK WITHIN COUNCIL BODIES

5. The examination of the proposal by the Land Transport Working Party started on 11 February 2014, under the Hellenic Presidency. The draft Parliament amendments were examined by the Land Transport Working Party on 26 February, and the Presidency asked for a mandate from the Permanent Representatives Committee to initiate negotiations with the European Parliament on 28 February.

² Council Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 of 29 March 1999 on a Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport (OJ L 90, 2.4.1999, p. 1).

6. On 4 March, an informal meeting took place between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The outcome of that meeting was presented to the Permanent Representatives Committee on 7 March, who accepted the draft overall compromise package. The compromise package was transmitted that same day in a letter to the Chairperson of the TRAN committee for approval by the European Parliament.
7. The Council preparatory bodies have taken due account of the opinions adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee³ and by the Committee of the Regions⁴.

CONCLUSION

8. The Council is invited to take note of the information provided on the progress on this proposal.
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³ Opinion of 21 January 2014 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁴ Opinion of 31 January 2014 (not yet published in the Official Journal).