


Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	1999/0022(COD) Procedure completed
Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland Repealed by 2016/0368(COD)	
Subject 3.20.05 Road transport: passengers and freight	
Geographical area Switzerland	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	PSE APARICIO SÁNCHEZ Pedro	31/08/1999
	Former committee responsible	PSE APARICIO SÁNCHEZ Pedro	31/08/1999
	Former committee for opinion	PPE-DE BRUNETTA Renato	04/10/1999
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Health	2319	14/12/2000
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2292	02/10/2000
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2279	26/06/2000
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Energy and Transport		

Key events			
27/01/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0035	Summary
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
24/11/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary

24/11/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0075/1999	
13/12/1999	Debate in Parliament		
15/12/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0156/1999	Summary
29/02/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0117	Summary
26/06/2000	Debate in Council	2279	Summary
02/10/2000	Debate in Council	2292	
08/12/2000	Council position published	14463/2000	Summary
11/12/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
12/12/2000	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
14/12/2000	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0566/2000	Summary
18/12/2000	Final act signed		
18/12/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0022(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Repealed by 2016/0368(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 071; Rules of Procedure EP 66_o-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RETT/5/13205

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1999)0035 OJ C 114 27.04.1999, p. 0004	27/01/1999	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0842/1999 OJ C 329 17.11.1999, p. 0001	22/09/1999	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0075/1999 OJ C 194 11.07.2000, p. 0005	24/11/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T5-0156/1999 OJ C 296 18.10.2000, p. 0037-0108	15/12/1999	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2000)0117 OJ C 248 29.08.2000, p. 0108 E	29/02/2000	EC	Summary
Council position	14463/2000 OJ C 375 28.12.2000, p. 0058	08/12/2000	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2000)2214	11/12/2000	EC	Summary

Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0566/2000 OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0199-0279	14/12/2000	EP	Summary
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Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Regulation 2000/2888](#)

[OJ L 336 30.12.2000, p. 0009](#) Summary

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

PURPOSE: establishment of a Community system for the allocation of transport authorisations for Member States' heavy goods vehicles circulating in Switzerland. **CONTENT:** a political agreement was reached between Switzerland and the Community regarding a system of rules concerning freight and passenger transport by rail and road. In particular, it is planned to grant Union transporters, for a transitional period, a quantity of authorisations ('heavy goods vehicle' authorisations) permitting trucks of over 28 tonnes to circulate on Swiss territory. These authorisations would enable Community transporters to make use of vehicles that respect EC weight limits until Switzerland aligns itself completely with the European standards in 2005 (see also procedure AVC990105 on the terms and conditions of the agreement between the EC and Switzerland on the liberalisation of land-based transport). As a result of this agreement, for the year 2000, a total of 250,000 'heavy goods vehicle' authorisations will be provided; this total will rise to 300,000 in 2002 and the 400,000 in 2004. From 2001 until 2004, the authorisations would be open to 34 tonne trucks (with an authorised maximum of 40 tonnes). Specific terms and conditions are provided for trucks circulating empty or with low loads (reduced charges). This proposal for a Regulation seeks to set at Community level the allocation of these 'heavy goods vehicle' authorisations among the Member States in order to comply with the political agreement reached with Switzerland. These authorisations will be allocated among the Member States according to their share in the main transport flows (bilateral traffic with and transit traffic through Switzerland), with a minimum number of 1,500 authorisations per country per year. It will be up to the Member States to allocate their share of authorisations among the transport companies on their territory. The proposal outlines the Community method of allocation of authorisations both for heavy goods vehicles and those travelling empty. It also makes provision for the gathering of statistics on heavy goods traffic flows in the Alpine Area on the basis of which the Commission will draw up a new allocation if the number of authorisations differs by more than 5% (and by at least 500 authorisations) in comparison to the number currently estimated. Lastly, it is envisaged to establish a specific committee the objective of which would be to modify, if necessary, the allocation of authorisations based on available Alpine statistics.?

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

The committee adopted the report (codecision procedure, first reading) by Pedro APARICIO SANCHEZ (PES, E) approving the Commission proposal subject to a number of amendments. The report noted that there was a shortage of information with regard to a number of parameters, such as the nationality of the hauliers, the amount of traffic diverted as a result of the Swiss 28-tonne weight limit, and the Member States in which the vehicles were registered. Consequently, there was a need for additional data. The Commission had acknowledged its lack of reliable and up-to-date data on traffic flows between the Union and Switzerland, although negotiations between the two parties had been going on for years. The committee adopted amendments concerning inter alia the date for the allocation of permits and the transfer of unused permits for a given year (the date was 15 November in both cases in the original proposal). The committee proposed that the permits for each year should be allocated before 15 August to enable hauliers to plan their operations better and that Member States should transfer unused permits to the Commission by 15 September each year so as to maximise use of the permits within the space of the year in question.

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

In adopting the report by Mr Pedro APARICIO SANCHEZ (PES, E) on heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland, the European Parliament approves the proposal for the allocation of permits for European heavy goods vehicles on Swiss territory. However, it called for the permits to be granted according to certain criteria which take into consideration the existing freight transport flows and genuine transport needs in the Alpine region. From the Parliament's point of view, it also wishes to change the distribution dates of permits: these should be distributed before 15 August of the preceding year instead of 15 November. As for those permits which are not allocated, the Member States should allow them to reach the Commission before 15 September maximum, instead of 15 November, as foreseen in the proposal. Lastly, the European Parliament made important changes of a comitology nature to the Commission's proposal by calling for more information from the European Parliament on the work done by the committee assisting the Commission.?

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

The European Commission has accepted all amendments (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) and thus it modifies its proposal as follows : - amendment 1

makes a necessary linguistic correction to the German text; - amendment 2 clarifies the 8th recital by making it more explicit; - amendments 3 and 6 revise the comitology procedure and bring it into line with the latest rules for a Regulatory Committee; - amendment 4 establishes a new deadline by which permits are to be distributed; - amendment 5 establishes a new deadline by which unused permits are to be returned to the Commission. ?

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

The Council took note of progress on the dossier concerning the proposal for a Regulation on the distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland. Stressing the importance of being able to make full use of the transit options which would be open in Switzerland, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue working on the dossier so that it might reach agreement at its October meeting. Of the seven sectoral agreements between the Community and Switzerland in the process of being ratified, one concerns carriage of goods and passengers by rail and by road. It grants Community carriers, for a transition period, a quantity of permits allowing them to operate vehicles weighing over 28 tonnes within Swiss territory. In February 1999 the Commission submitted a proposal for a Regulation to introduce tables allocating those permits between Member States. Following the European Parliament's first-reading Opinion on the proposal, the Commission submitted an amended proposal accepting Parliament's amendments in March 2000. ?

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

Since the Commission submitted its amended proposal in March 2000, the Council's discussions on the matter have been informed by a concern to abide fully by the outcome of the European Parliament's first reading, including the amendments tabled by the Parliament, which the Commission took on board in its amended proposal. However, in establishing its common position the Council has found itself obliged to take account of a number of factors and developments which have arisen in the intervening period. The initial Commission proposal was presented as an act implementing one of the agreements between the European Communities and the Swiss Federation, viz. the Agreement on the transport of goods by rail and road. However, owing to the fact that ratification procedures on one of the agreements in the package of seven signed with Switzerland are still under way in some Member States, these agreements, including the road traffic agreement on the transport of goods by rail and road, have not yet entered into force and are not likely to do so for some months yet. In the meantime the Swiss Federal Council decided, on 1 November 2000, to allow heavy goods vehicles of up to 34 tonnes to travel on its roads from 1 January 2001 and to open up quotas, from the same date, for vehicles between 34 and 40 tonnes and for vehicles that are empty or transporting light loads. The decision by the Swiss authorities accompanies the introduction of the RPLP (heavy traffic levy) on the Swiss network. Given this last development, the adoption of the Regulation has thus become very urgent, if Community hauliers are not to be deprived of the benefits of the Swiss decision. Nevertheless, given that the seven agreements form a package, the Council did not want the decisions to be regarded as advance implementation of the road traffic agreement. This concern is reflected in the structure of the text. The Council has therefore made a number of amendments, as compared with the outcome of the European Parliament's first reading, notably in order to uncouple the Regulation from the road traffic agreement. Furthermore, in drawing up the allocation scales, it took account of the latest statistics. In addition, it felt it would be useful to include a review clause on the basis of real flows after one year. The Council also took into account the deadline proposed by the Parliament for re-allocating unused permits. ?

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

The common position and in particular the amendments to Annex I and II are based on the results of a traffic survey that has been carried out on behalf of the Commission. On the basis of the method proposed by the Commission, slightly adapted to take account of the specific geographic position of certain Member States, Council adopted a common position on the distribution of the permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland. The Commission welcomes and accepts the common position adopted and invites the European Parliament to conclude its second reading on the amended proposal forthwith so as to allow these permits to be used by Community hauliers from 1 January 2001. ?

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

The European Parliament approved without amendment the common position. The act was accordingly deemed adopted in accordance with the common position. The Swiss Federal Council decided on 1 November 2000 to allow heavy goods vehicles of up to 34 tonnes to travel on its roads from 1 January 2001. The total number of "full weight" permits to be allocated will be 300 000 for the years 2001-2004. The number of "empty permits" available annually for the years 2001-2004 will be 220 000. ?

Road transport: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland

PURPOSE : to adopt a Regulation on the distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Regulation 2888/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the distribution of permits for heavy goods travelling in Switzerland. CONTENT : this Regulation lays down the rules for the distribution of permits allocated to the Community by Switzerland allowing heavy goods vehicles of up to 34 tonnes to travel on its territory as from 1 January 2001, opening up, from the same date, the quotas for vehicles the actual total laden weight of which is more than 34 tonnes but not more than 40 tonnes and for empty and light goods vehicles and introducing the RPLP (heavy traffic levy) on the Swiss network. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 30.12.2000. ?