

Procedure file

Basic information			
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation		Procedure completed	
Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport: modernisation and restructuring of the EU fleets Amending Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 1998/0281(SYN)			
Subject 3.20.04 Inland waterway transport 4.15.04 Workforce, occupational mobility, job conversion, working conditions			
Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible TRAN Transport and Tourism	Rapporteur PPE WORTMANN-KOOL Corien Shadow rapporteur S&D ERTUG Ismail ALDE MEISSNER Gesine Verts/ALE LICHTENBERGER Eva ECR VAN DALEN Peter	Appointed 22/10/2013
	Committee for opinion BUDG Budgets	Rapporteur for opinion The committee decided not to give an opinion.	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs (Associated committee)	S&D STEINRUCK Jutta	26/11/2013
Council of the European Union	Council configuration Foreign Affairs	Meeting 3311	Date 08/05/2014
European Commission	Commission DG Mobility and Transport	Commissioner KALLAS Siim	
European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions			
Key events			
10/09/2013	Legislative proposal published	COM(2013)0621	Summary
08/10/2013	Committee referral announced in		

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10/09/2013	Legislative proposal published	COM(2013)0621	Summary
08/10/2013	Committee referral announced in		

	Parliament, 1st reading		
12/12/2013	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
20/02/2014	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
24/02/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0142/2014	Summary
15/04/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/04/2014	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0361/2014	Summary
08/05/2014	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
15/05/2014	Final act signed		
15/05/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/05/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/0303(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 1998/0281(SYN)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 091-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TRAN/7/13791

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2013)0621	10/09/2013	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE522.941	27/11/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE524.813	15/01/2014	EP	
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR6651/2013	30/01/2014	CofR	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE524.581	13/02/2014	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0142/2014	24/02/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0361/2014	15/04/2014	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00067/2014/LEX	15/05/2014	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)471	09/07/2014	EC	

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex
Final act	
Regulation 2014/546 OJ L 163 29.05.2014, p. 0015 Summary	

Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport: modernisation and restructuring of the EU fleets

PURPOSE: to amend Council Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 on a Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 718/1999](#) establishes the Union fleet capacity policy for vessels used to carry goods on inland waterways in the Member States. In line with their fleet capacity policies, Member States with inland waterways linked to those of another Member State and total fleet tonnage of over 100 000 tonnes set up an Inland Waterway Fund (the Reserve Fund) on the basis of the aforementioned Regulation.

The funds are administered by the competent authorities of the Member States concerned under their national legislation and with their own administrative resources. National organisations representing inland waterway carriers are involved in this administration. The reserve funds may be used in only two situations:

1. In the event of a serious market disturbance in the inland waterway transport market, as referred to in Directive 96/75/EC, the Commission may, at the request of a Member State, take suitable measures, in particular measures designed to prevent any new increase in the transport capacity on offer on the market in question.
2. If unanimously requested by the organisations representing inland waterway transport. In such as case, any Member State may take the measures as referred to in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 718/1999.

The reserve funds, consisting solely of financial contributions from the industry, have never been used. The EU-level representative organisations approached the Commission once, in 2003, to enquire about possibilities for using the funds. However, the envisaged measures were considered to be outside the scope of Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 718/1999.

The measures referred to in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 only cover social aspects. However, these measures could be extended in particular to broaden the scope of training schemes, to strengthen the organisation of the sector and to create a context favourable to innovation and improved environmental performance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was undertaken.

The Commission consulted the representative organisations on 11 April 2013 on the reasons for the reserve funds never having been used, even though the sector was experiencing a decline, and on possible solutions. They confirmed that the limited scope of Article 8 was a barrier to triggering the use of the funds and stated that they would be in favour of expanding the scope of the Article.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 91(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes to amend Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 718/1999 by measures aiming to:

- make it easier for inland waterway carriers leaving the industry to obtain an early retirement pension or to transfer to another economic activity;
- organise vocational training or retraining schemes for crew members leaving the industry;
- improve skills in inland navigation in order to safeguard the development and future of the profession;
- encourage owner-operators to join trade associations and strengthen the organisations representing inland waterway transport at Union level;
- encourage adaptation of vessels to technical progress in order to improve working conditions and promote safety;
- encourage innovation of vessels and their adaptation to technical progress as regards the environment.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the proposal has no budgetary implications for the European Union.

Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport: modernisation and restructuring of the EU fleets

The Committee on Transport and Tourism adopted the report by Corien WORTMANN-KOOL (PPE, NL) on the 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.

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs exercised its right as an associated committee in line with [Article 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament](#), to be consulted to give an opinion on this report.

The parliamentary committee recommended that the position adopted by the European Parliament at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amend the Commissions proposal.

The Members requested in particular that the Commission:

- support the adaptation of the inland waterway fleet to technical progress as regards the environment, by promoting the use of financial instruments from existing Union funds such as the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) and [Horizon 2020](#);
- suggest ways to leverage the reserve funds by means of those existing funds as well as financing instruments from the European Investment Bank.

The measures taken by the Member States should also aim to:

- provide comprehensive information to inland waterway carriers leaving the industry making it easier to obtain an early retirement pension or to transfer to another economic activity;
- provide information on vocational training or retraining schemes for crew members leaving the industry;
- encourage adaptation of vessels to technical progress in order to improve working conditions, including health protection, and to promote safety;
- promote innovation with regard to environmentally-friendly vessels.

Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport: modernisation and restructuring of the EU fleets

The European Parliament adopted by 620 votes to 20, with 34 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the 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.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendments adopted at plenary are the result of an agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council. They amended the proposal as follows:

Through their amendments, the co-legislators stipulated that the measures taken by the Member States should seek to:

- make it easier for inland waterway carriers leaving the industry to obtain an early retirement pension or to transfer to another economic activity, inter alia by providing comprehensive information,
- organise vocational training or retraining schemes for crew members, including workers and owner-operators, leaving the industry and provide appropriate information about those schemes,
- encourage adaptation of vessels to technical progress in order to improve working conditions, including health protection, and promote safety,
- encourage innovation in respect of vessels and their adaptation to technical progress as regards the environment, including environmentally-friendly vessels,
- encourage ways of leveraging the use of the reserve funds in conjunction with available financial instruments, including, where appropriate, under [Horizon 2020](#) and the [Connecting Europe Facility](#), and with financing instruments from the European Investment Bank.

Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport: modernisation and restructuring of the EU fleets

PURPOSE: to update the rules on a Community-fleet capacity policy in order to promote inland waterway transport.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) No 546/2014 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

CONTENT: this new Regulation broadens the scope of the reserve funds called Inland Waterway Funds, set up under [Council Regulation 718/1999](#) by Member States with inland waterways linked to those of another Member State and a total fleet tonnage of over 100 000 tonnes.

The new Regulation provides that the reserve funds may now be used by any Member State to take measures, in particular to:

- make it easier for inland waterway carriers leaving the industry to obtain an early retirement pension or to transfer to another economic activity, inter alia, by providing comprehensive information;
- organise vocational training or retraining schemes for crew members, including workers and owner-operators, leaving the industry and provide appropriate information about those schemes;
- improve skills in inland navigation and knowledge of logistics in order to safeguard the development and future of the profession;
- encourage owner-operators to join trade associations and strengthen the organisations representing inland waterway transport at Union level;
- encourage adaptation of vessels to technical progress in order to improve working conditions, including health protection, and promote safety;
- encourage innovation in respect of vessels and their adaptation to technical progress as regards the environment, including

environmentally-friendly vessels;

· encourage ways of leveraging the use of the reserve funds in conjunction with available financial instruments, including, where appropriate, under [Horizon 2020](#) and the [Connecting Europe Facility](#), and with financing instruments from the European Investment Bank.

It is specified that the reserve funds may be used for the adaptation of vessels to technical and environmental requirements adopted after the entry into force of the Regulation, including their adaptation to the further development of European standards on engine emissions, as well as for the encouragement of engine fuel efficiency, of the use of alternative fuels and of any other measures to improve air quality, and for environmentally-friendly vessels, including river-adapted vessels.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 18.06.2014.