



DIRECTORATE GENERAL INTERNAL POLICIES OF THE UNION
Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
- Secretariat -

IMCO-06-0247
Brussels, 6 September 2006

FEEDBACK NOTE

IMCO Committee Meeting of 4 September 2006

The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) *inter alia*

-) held a preliminary exchange of views on the Common Position on Services in the Internal Market
-) held a vote on an opinion of Mrs WEISGERBER : the Type approval of motor vehicles (Euro 5) - enhanced cooperation with ENVI Committee

Second Reading

Services in the Internal Market - Rapporteur: E. Gebhardt

The first exchange of views on the Council's common position on the Services Directive revealed the preliminary positions of the political groups.

A representative of the **Presidency-in-office** presented the Common position adopted by Council on 24 July. The Presidency stressed that the common position represented a *carefully balanced and sensitive compromise*, particularly as regards the chapter on administrative cooperation and the screening procedure introduced by Council in a new article 39.5, the only true novelty in the Common Position. Hence, the Council called on the committee to consider accepting the common position "directly" and make a swift final decision.

In the same line as the Council's representative, the **Commission** stressed that Council's compromise "package" was as delicate as the one reached in Parliament. The Commission considered that the Common Position was a good and a balanced compromise, which would achieve a real internal market in services. It also expected a swiftly adoption of the Directive.

The **rapporteur, (Evelyne Gebhardt, PSE)** considered that further legal clarity was still necessary and therefore, her draft recommendation for second reading (to be presented in IMCO on 13 September) will contain 11 amendments on the following areas: labour law, social services of general interest, consumer protection, administrative cooperation, review clause and the new article 39(5) as regards the guidelines to be provided by the Commission. She

committed herself to adopt the final decision on this Directive before the end of the year. She presented Members with a timetable, where the adoption in IMCO is foreseen for 23 October and vote in Plenary during the November I part-session.

The representative of the **EPP-ED group (Malcom Harbour)** underlined that the group would be extremely cautious about further changes, which could not affect the core of the Directive and would require the support of the Council. He believed that his group would unlikely table any amendments in second reading. Similarly, the **ALDE group (Anneli Jäätteenmäki)** endorsed the Council's text and anticipated that the group would not table any amendments.

However, although the Green group still needed time to scrutinise the text, the Green shadow rapporteur, (**Pierre Jonckheer**) recalled Parliament's right to table amendments to the common position if the majorities were achieved. In addition, he drew attention to the fact that certain discrepancies might exist between the EN and FR versions of the common position.

By contrast, the GUE representative (**Sahra Wagenknecht**) made a robust statement against the common position, which her Group considered still contained the worst elements of the original proposal, namely the country of origin principle, and would create social dumping across Europe. Consequently, she announced that GUE would vote against the Council's text.

Own-Initiative reports

Public-Private Partnerships - Rapporteur: B. Weiler

A deadline for amendments for the draft report was fixed for 15 September

Opinions

Type approval of motor vehicles - draftswoman: A. Weisgerber

The Committee voted the Opinion (enhanced cooperation with ENVI Committee), accepting the compromises negotiated by the draftswoman, notably approving unlimited access to car repair information for all independent car dealers and garages.

Budget 2007: Section III, Commission - draftsman: B. Newton Dunn

The Committee agreed a deadline for amendments of 5 September.

IMCO Secretariat

Copy: Mr Julian Priestley Secretary General

Mrs Christine Verger, Cabinet of the President

Mr Marco Aguiriano, Cabinet of the President

Mr Stephen Clark, Secretary General's Cabinet

Ms Daniela Senk, Cabinet of the President

Mr Klaus Welle, Director-General, DG Internal Policies

Mrs Thérèse Lepoutre-Dumoulin, Director, DG Internal Policies

Mr Freddy Drexler, DG Internal Policies

Mr Riccardo Ribera d'Alcalà, Director, Legislative Coordination

Ms Els VandenBosch, Head of Unit, Legislative Coordination
Mr Dietmar Nickel, Director General
Heads of Unit of Directorate A (ITRE, EMPL, ENVI and ECON)
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