

RESOLUTION No. 11 ON TRANSPORT BY INLAND WATERWAYS

[CM(89)28]

The Council of Ministers, meeting in Paris on 22nd November 1989,

HAVING REGARD to Report [CS(89)23] which analyses in particular the East-West and North-South traffic by inland waterways;

CONSIDERING:

- The increasing congestion on European roads and motorways and the associated threat to the environment in Member countries;
- The specific advantages of the waterways in terms of quality of service, safety and regularity;
- The existence of markets which differ in terms of infrastructure capacity, potential and methods of commercial organisation;
- The opportunities offered by the EC 1993 deadline from the standpoint of the liberalisation of markets.

INVITES Member countries to regard the waterway as a means of communication in its own right in the same way as other modes of transport and as a possible way of avoiding the risk of bottlenecks and, accordingly, the creation of isolated markets.

INVITES Member countries to endeavour to eliminate infrastructural handicaps to make some markets less isolated.

RECOMMENDS the authorities concerned to give greater consideration to waterways in studies carried out with respect to both protection of the environment and development of combined transport.

DRAWS THE ATTENTION of the governments concerned to the fact that the conditions governing use of the Rhine and Danube differ and that efforts to eliminate these differences should be made so as to obtain a uniform regime on the European inland waterway network.

INVITES the participating Member countries to promote the harmonization of the different methods of commercial organisation of the North-South market since such harmonization can be conducive to the sound operation of the market.

INSTRUCTS the Committee of Deputies to organise the work of the Conference in such a way as to ensure that inland waterways navigation plays the role appropriate to it.