Proposal for a Council Decision on the LORAN-C radionavigation system

COM(91) 1 final

(Submitted by the Commission on 30 January 1991)

(91/C 53/08)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 84 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the international Maritime Organization (IMO) requires the contracting governments to the Solas Convention to undertake to arrange for the establishment and maintainance of such aids to navigation as the volume of traffic justifies and the degree of risk requires;

Whereas it is a concern of the Community to ensure the highest degree of safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment;

Whereas the United States Coastguard has decided to terminate its LORAN-C commitments outside the USA before 1994 and has the intention to offer the LORAN-C facilities to the relevant host nations;

Whereas the international Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) supports the need for a terrestrial radionavigation system to meet the needs of maritime navigation;

Whereas certain Member States intend to participate in one or more regional agreements on the establishment of LORAN-C chains covering North West Europe and the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Iberian Peninsula and the Baltic;

Whereas the LORAN-C system satisfies the international requirements and the more general utilization of the LORAN-C system does not prejudice the development of satellite aids to navigation; whereas, furthermore, combined coverage by satellite and LORAN-C will offer the highest degree of system verification and continuity of radionavigation coverage for the benefit of maritime safety and environmental protection;

Whereas the establishment of regional LORAN-C systems must ensure a coherent and complete coverage of the European maritime area, avoiding as much as possible the imposition of additional costs upon the users of existing terrestrial radionavigation systems,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The Member States shall participate in or join regional agreements on LORAN-C as far as necessary to realize the international objectives.

2. With regard to their participation in regional agreements the Member States shall seek to achieve the LORAN-C configurations which cover the widest possible geographical area in Europe and in neighbouring waters.

Article 2

The Commission:

— shall ensure coordination between the Member States participating in regional agreements with a view to ensuring compatibility between the LORAN-C chains introduced on the regional level,

— shall encourage the development of LORAN-C receivers, taking account of the ongoing development of satellite systems and the enhancement of the present LORAN-C system,

and shall propose, where necessary, to the Council the necessary measures.

Article 3

In their role as member or observer within the international Association of Lighthouse Authorities the Member States and the Commission shall strive to obtain the participation of the greatest possible number of countries in the European regional LORAN-C chains with the purpose of enlarging the coverage of LORAN-C worldwide in order to improve safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.