

RESOLUTION No. 67 ON DIMENSIONS OF LOADING UNITS

[CM(89)16]

The Council of Ministers of ECMT, meeting in Edinburgh, on 24th and 25th May 1989,

CONSIDERING:

- That increasingly larger dimensions for containers and swap bodies could go beyond the infrastructural possibilities for the European road and rail networks;
- That the random multiplication of changes in container and swap body dimensions prevents the optimal investment and use of wagons and transshipment equipment and also results in poor investment decisions in railway infrastructures;
- That it is important for combined transport that the dimensions of road trains and articulated vehicles should allow the transport and the transfer of all standardised types of loading units;
- That the increase in road train loading capacity (extending up to 40 palettes), due to technical developments of vehicles, has led to traffic losses for semi-trailers having a capacity of about 30 palettes; semi-trailers are especially important in non-accompanied piggyback transport since they are more profitable than the rolling road and their use takes some of the pressure off the combined transport terminals;
- That modular systems for the transport of loading units can contribute to the development of combined transport.

RECOMMENDS that Member States should agree on and introduce dimensions for vehicles, containers and swap bodies which:

- Are compatible with the infrastructural dimensions of the main European road and railway routes and with the planned future development of these routes;
- Are such that the development of rail/road combined transport is facilitated from a technical viewpoint, especially in transalpine transport;
- Are workable, lasting and accepted by Member countries as the standards for the longer term;
- Are also adapted as far as possible to the needs of deep sea shipping;

INVITES, consequently, the Committee of Deputies:

-- To study and report in detail as soon as possible on the effects on the European road and railway networks of changes in unit load dimensions, at present being examined in international standardisation organisations, proceeding in close co-operation with the Commission of the European Communities and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;

-- To draw the attention of the responsible bodies in ISO and CEN to the consideration of the Council mentioned above and to take all appropriate steps so that definitive recommendations await the view of the Council of Ministers of ECMT to be expressed in early 1990.