Opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff and Regulation (EEC) No 918/83 setting up a Community System of Reliefs from Customs Duty [1]

(87/C 105/02)

On 30 September 1986 the Council decided to ask the Economic and Social Committee to deliver an Opinion, in accordance with Article 198 of the EEC Treaty, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the matter, adopted its Opinion on 4 February 1987. The Rapporteur was Mr Broicher.

At its 244th Plenary Session (meeting of 25 February 1987) the Committee unanimously adopted the following Opinion:

1. General Comments

The Committee approves the Commission proposal, particularly with the People's Europe in mind. It welcomes in particular:

— the increase from 45 ECU to 100 ECU in the maximum value of goods which can be carried duty-free to meet travellers' personal needs;

— the alignment of the provision on the flat-rate ad valorem duty charged on goods contained in small consignments, with the provision on duties charged on goods used to meet travellers' personal needs; this means that in future the flat-rate duty on goods contained in small consignments will also be applicable solely to that fraction of the value exceeding the amount admitted duty-free;

— the increase from 115 ECU to 200 ECU of the maximum value of goods to which a flat-rate ad valorem duty is applicable, irrespective of whether the goods are contained in small consignments or travellers' personal luggage.

2. Specific Comments

2.1. The Committee notes that the new duty-free limits and maximum values are fixed without any provision stipulating the criteria to be used to calculate the value of the goods in question. The rules in this area are not clear to the ordinary citizen and also appear to be applied in an arbitrary way in some countries. They should be available to citizens at border posts and at post offices.

[1] OJ No C 254, 11. 10. 1986, p. 7.

Done at Brussels, 25 February 1987.

The Chairman

of the Economic and Social Committee

Alfons MARGOT

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive amending for the Second Time Council Directive 83/416/EEC Concerning the Authorization of Scheduled Interregional Air Services for the Transport of Passengers, Mail and Cargo between Member States [1]

(87/C 105/03)

On 29 September 1986 the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 198 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Transport and Communications, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its Opinion on 11 February 1987, in the light of the Report by Mr Kenna, and of the Supplementary Opinion produced by the Section for Regional Development.

[1] OJ No C 240, 24. 9. 1986, p. 7.