



IP(83)35

**PRESSE-MEDELSELE • MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE • PRESS-RELEASE • INFORMATION A LA PRESSE  
ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ • INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA • MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, 27 January 1983

EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECH MADE BY MR FRANS ANDRIESSEN, MEMBER OF  
THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, TO THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COMMITTEE

---

Brussels, 27 January 1983

The draft Regulation on the application of the competition rules to air and sea transport are designed to fill a gap in Community law. They will ensure that the competition rules are effectively applied in these sectors, but will include a flexible system of exemptions, involving only a minimum of red tape.

The Commission has made provision for block exemptions for the liner conferences, and the scope of these exemptions is without precedent. In the air transport sector, a number of important areas are not covered by the draft Regulation.

The Regulations are necessary, not only in order to equip the Commission with mandatory procedures, but also to make clear to the sectors concerned their rights and obligations.

It is not the Commission's intention to introduce a common transport policy through these Regulations. That would necessitate other measures which are outside the scope of the competition rules, on such matters as safety, technological harmonization and environmental and social aspects. But, with that understood, the Commission deplores the fact that it has not yet proved possible to set up a more coherent transport policy.

The proposed Regulations will help to counteract distortions of competition on the part of non-EEC countries and will thus be in the best interests of the sectors concerned.

Increased competition in the air transport sector will have beneficial effects for consumers. This is one of the reasons why the Commission made a survey last year of the way in which fares are fixed. This survey was directed towards the relationship between the Member States and the airlines, and the Commission intends to publish some of the findings in the course of this year.

In answer to those who expressed fears that competition might have disastrous effects in the two sectors concerned, Mr Andriessen stated that the Commission was proposing to implement gradually only a certain measure of liberalization. Moreover, the implementation of the competition rules in other sectors was evidence of the fact that the Commission's policy in the competition sector has always been outward-looking and has taken into account current social and economic problems.