Convention on international civil aviation: limitation of the operation of aeroplanes (amend. Directive 92/14/EEC)

1996/0209(SYN) - 09/12/1997

"Absolute nonsense", was rapporteur Rijk VAN DAM's (NL, I-EN) reaction on a Council decision to keep Saudi Arabia on the list of the world's poorest nations, allowed to operate in EU member states with more than 25 years old jet carriers (the so called Chapter 2 aeroplanes). The operation of these aircraft is prohibited by Council Directive 92/14/EEC, but developing nations could obtain exemptions from this prohibition. Council argues that Saudi Arabia, however rich, figures on an official UN list of poor countries. It therefore intends, with the Commission, to grant an exemption for 7 Saudi Boeings 737-268, with a further nine to come in 2000. With the unanimous support of the Committee, the rapporteur had retabled these amendments in his draft recommendation for second reading. Mr VAN DAM said: "It is unacceptable that such a wealthy country takes advantage of these provisions, even if assurances have been given that the consequences will be limited".