Air transport: exemptions to agreements and concerted practices between the Community and third countries

1997/0138(CNS) - 16/05/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the application of Community competition rules to air transport between the Community and third countries. SUBSTANCE: the Commission proposes amending Regulation 3975/87/EEC in such a way that it also covers air transport between the Community and third countries (see also CNS97137). On this basis the Commission considers that it should also have the power to grant block exemptions for such links. This proposal for a regulation would accordingly empower the Commission to grant block exemptions to airline agreements, decisions and concerted practices in respect of international air transport between the Community and third countries and concerned with joint planning, the coordination of capacity and schedules, revenue sharing, the holding of consultations on tariffs for passengers with their accompanying baggage in so far as they are essential to interlining, the joint operation of a service on a new or less busy route and slot allocation at airports. There is also an additional provision designed to deal with the special situation where breaches of conditions or obligations, or effects incompatible with Article 85(3) are due to the laws, regulations or administrative provisions of third countries or the provisions of air service agreements between Member States and third countries. In the case of extra-Community routes the Community is bound to take account of such conflicts of rules and of the need to pay due regard to Community law when dealing with them.