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Brussels, March 1984

**COMMISSION PROPOSES MORE INCREASES IN TRAVELLERS'  
ALLOWANCES**

As foreshadowed in the Commission's statement to the European Parliament in December 1983, and on a proposal from Vice-President Christopher Tugendhat, the Commission has just adopted a draft Eighth Council Directive on increasing travellers' allowances in international travel (1).

This proposal complements two earlier proposals concerning tax-free allowances which were sent to the Council in April 1983. The first of these (the Sixth Directive) was designed to increase the level of the value of allowances for tax-paid purchases for intra-Community travellers on the basis of a multi-annual programme (2). The second was designed to clarify the position regarding sales in tax-free shops (Seventh directive) by laying down that such sales are authorized in intra-Community travel within the value and quantity limits permitted for travellers from third countries (3).

The present proposal is intended to raise the allowance for travellers from third countries (and therefore the allowance for tax-free purchases in intra-Community travel under the Seventh directive) on the basis of a multi-annual programme in step with that under the Sixth Directive. The third country allowance would rise by stages from the current level of 45 ECU to 60 ECU in 1985 and 85 ECU in 1988.

Most of the Community's third country partners already apply higher allowances than those now proposed, and the Commission intends to try and ensure that this is generally the case for the most important travel destinations.

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(1) COM(84)182: Proposal for an Eighth Council Directive amending 69/169/EEC on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to exemption from turnover tax and excise duty on imports in international travel - increase in allowances for travellers from non-Community countries.

(2) O.J. C 114 of 28.4.1983, p.4

(3) O.J. C 114 of 28.4.1983, p.7