

COM(79) 329 final

Brussels, 6 July 1979

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION  
initiating a consultation procedure concerning international  
action in the field of air transport

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(79) 329 final



## M O T I V A T I O N

As indicated in the Memorandum (1) to the Council of Ministers on "Contributions of the European Economic Community to the Development of Air Transport Service", recent developments in world air transport and their consequences for Member States are among the elements which make opportune a Community approach to the problems in this sector. The new deregulation policy of the US government, the renegotiation of bilateral agreements between the USA and Member States of the Community in particular, the restructuring of IATA, the recent heavy price increases of jet fuel, airport congestion and air traffic control problems are factors to which the EEC cannot fail to react. Public opinion and the European Parliament demonstrate a growing concern regarding these problems. The Commission has followed the evolution of the situation closely and has established, in collaboration with the Council, an initial list of priority issues (2) which could be the subject of Community initiatives. It seems that the moment has come to take a step forward by creating the necessary instruments to establish a greater coherence of actions of Member States, especially in the area of external relations. In this respect it seems appropriate to establish a procedure for consultation and exchange of information. These consultations and information exchanges should take place at the request of a Member State or the Commission in order to focus the examination on problems of common or Community interest.

The implementation of this proposal should make it possible for the Community and its Member States to defend their interests with a larger degree of coherence and efficiency within international organizations as well as in relations with third countries, by avoiding, as far as possible, non-productive and detrimental divergencies and taking into account common interests and the requirements of the EEC Treaty. This proposal aims therefore not at convergency of conduct at any price, but at an exchange of views which should result, whenever possible, in the establishment of common and Community positions.

This decision does not prejudge the obligations of Member States stemming from the provisions of the Treaty and in particular from article 16.

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(1) COM(79)311

(2) June 1978 (T/512/1/78)

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,  
and in particular Article 84(2) thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament;

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Whereas, in anticipation of world-wide developments in air transport and  
their consequences for the Community and the Member States, it is  
desirable to define in good time problems of common concern in air  
transport relations between Member States and non-member countries and  
action to be taken in this field within international organizations;

Whereas it is desirable to facilitate exchanges of information and  
consultation in this area and to promote, where appropriate, coherence  
of action by Member States in international organizations and with respect  
to non-member countries,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

At the request of a Member State or the Commission, the Member  
States and the Commission shall, in accordance with the conditions laid  
down in this Decision,

- a) consult each other on air transport questions dealt with in inter-  
national organizations,
- b) consult each other prior to and during the negotiation of multilateral  
and bilateral agreements with non-member countries in this field,
- c) exchange all useful information on the work of international organi-  
zations and on developments which have occurred or which may occur  
in relations between Member States and non-member countries and on  
the functioning of agreements already concluded in this field.

Article 2

The exchange of information and the consultations provided for in  
Article 1 shall have as their principal objectives :

.../...

- a) to establish jointly whether the questions under consideration pose problems of common interest,
- b) according to the nature of these problems:
  - to examine whether the actions taken by Member States on the international organizations concerned and/or with respect to non-member countries should be coordinated;
  - to consider jointly any other approach which might be appropriate.

### Article 3

1. The consultations provided for in this Decision shall take place within a select committee composed of representatives of each Member State and of the Commission.
2. The secretariat services necessary for the exchange of information and consultations shall be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.
3. The Member States and the Commission shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the process for exchanging information and for carrying out consultations functions correctly and in particular to safeguard the confidential nature of the information they receive in this connection.

### Article 4

Articles 1, 2 and 3 shall apply without prejudice to any special Community rules or procedures already in existence.

### Article 5

At the end of a period of three years following notification of this Decision, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, shall re-examine the consultation procedure with a view to amending or supplementing it, if experience shows this to be necessary.

### Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

FINANCIAL FORM  
FOR  
NEW ACTION PROPOSALS

Proposal for a Council decision  
creating a consultation procedure  
concerning international actions  
in the field of air transport

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1. Budgetary line

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2. Legal Basis

Art. 84.2

3. Description of action

3.1. Objectives

The proposal intends to create a consultation procedure in air transport with the aim of reaching coordination and if necessary concertation of Member States actions in this field. The procedure deals with relations to third countries and international organizations.

3.2. Persons implicated

The civil aviation administrations in the Member States.

4. Justification of action

The memorandum to the Council on air transport (COM(79)311 points out that Community air transport has very important international aspects. Developments of new Community action in air transport may have repercussions on the international system or be restricted by it and vice versa. Consultation is therefore necessary to better manage Community policy.

5. Financial implications

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6. Financial implication for staff budget and current functions

6.1. Staff necessary for the exclusive execution of the action

1/2 A 6/7 whose principal activities will be:

1. To follow developments in air transport in international organisations in particular ECAC, ICAO and IATA (Art. 1). ECAC and ICAO are in near permanent session which necessitates close monitoring to prepare action by DG VII directly and by other DG's e.g. I, III, IV, V, VIII, XV, XVI, CUS and the ELPS.
2. To follow developments in relations between Member States and third countries (Art. 1)
3. To assist in direct consultation between the Commission and third countries (Art. 1).
4. Request pertinent information to carry out point 1, 2 and 3 (Art. 1 c)
5. To draft working documents evaluating whether problems are of Community interest (Art. 2 a)
6. To draft working documents evaluating whether coordinated action is necessary and defining such action (Art. 2 b).
7. To participate in consultation meetings (Art. 3,1)
8. To participate in meetings of international organisations mainly ECAC.

6.2. Necessary budget for this staff (Chapter 1 of the budget)

8.313 u.c.

6.3. Necessary budget of operation (Chapter 2 of the general budget)

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7. Financing of intervention costs

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8. Effect on resources

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9. Control system

By the services involved of the Commission  
Reexamination foreseen if necessary 3 years after notification of decision (Art. 5)