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PRESS RELEASEA Community system for duty-free imports of  
aircraft accessories

The EEC Commission has submitted to the Council of Ministers two draft decisions in pursuance of Article 28 of the Treaty. They are to allow the duty-free import into the Community of a large number of products used to maintain or repair aircraft over 15 tons in weight, unladen.

The first draft decision suspends for three years from 1 January 1967 the common customs tariff duties on the goods listed in Table I annexed to the draft, and for two years from 1 January 1967 the CCT duties on certain types of tyre listed in Table II.

These duties are suspended for different periods because the Community's aircraft tyre industry is growing, and should soon be able to satisfy the needs of Community users; but the latter to a large extent will still have to rely for a long time on outside manufacturers for other products used in maintenance of or repairs to aircraft.

The second draft decision creates a duty-free Community import quota for tyres to be fitted on DC 8, DC 9 and Boeing aircraft. The quota is open for one year, from 1 January to 31 December 1967.

The size of the Community quota is based on present imports from non-member countries, having regard also to changes in the composition of the various Community air fleets to be introduced in 1967.

This quota is expected to induce EEC tyre manufacturers to increase and diversify their output in 1967 so that in 1968 they can supply users of DC 8, DC 9 and Boeing aircraft on acceptably competitive terms. On their part, some of these users should take advantage of this period to revise their procurement policy, in which at present they take little or no account of tyre-production in the Community.

The first draft includes in its provisions that, unless the Council is notified in good time of one or more Member States' opposition, the suspension of duties will be tacitly renewed for successive periods of three years (except for tyres) or one year (tyres).

By the second draft decision the Council of Ministers, in case of need at the end of 1967, may consider at the instigation of one or more Member States the possibility of introducing a second duty-free Community quota for 1968.