

Joint opinion on civil aviation and the environment

(21 February 1992)

Whereas airports and airlines are recognized worldwide as important economic generators for the regions which they serve;

Whereas Europe's airports and airlines are committed to heavy financial investment programmes to provide the necessary capacity to meet the forecast doubling of air traffic by the year 2000, resulting partially from the European Commission's initiatives to liberalize air transport;

Whereas any changes in airport and airline operating practices and patterns should involve consultations with the workforce and should avoid any negative health and safety effects or negative social consequences for aviation employees;

Whereas, in some countries, extremely complex and time-consuming administrative and/or juridical procedures may hinder the timely creation of adequate capacity;

Whereas, at some airports, the concerns of airport neighbours on environmental issues may prevent the creation of adequate capacity;

Whereas, most airlines and aircraft manufacturers have undertaken substantial investments in developing and operating equipment built to improving environmental performance standards while incurring higher basic costs in terms of investment and operation;

Whereas, all modes of surface transport are generally allowed to operate without night curfew restrictions,

The Joint Committee of employers and employees in civil aviation urges the European Commission and the European Council of Ministers, and indeed all the governments of the greater Europe to legislate urgently on the following issues in order to ensure that adequate airport capacity is provided to allow civil aviation to develop to the benefit of passengers, freight shippers, airlines and airports, but above all to the benefit of the regions of Europe and the people who live in them.

