

Statement on employment in the industry

(28 February 1991)

1. The profitability of airlines which, at best, has always been marginal, had already deteriorated in 1989 and 1990 before the beginning of the Gulf crisis. Then, with the outbreak of hostilities in January 1991, there were dramatic consequences in terms of traffic and revenue losses. This further deterioration has come at a time when airlines, airports and aerospace manufacturers are contractually committed to heavy expenditure and investment programmes.

2. Furthermore, the crisis occurs at a juncture in the economic cycle ill adapted to absorb measures that could further weaken the industry.

3. The Joint Committee:

- (a) urges employers' and workers' associations to work together, wherever possible, to mitigate the effects of the crisis and to normalize the employment situation as quickly as possible; and
- (b) recommends the Commission to reconsider the nature, timing and implementation of measures that could further weaken the industry.

4. Airlines and airports have always cooperated fully with the national authorities in

maintaining the highest possible level of security for air passengers and aviation workers. However, the Joint Committee believes that the practice where certain Community Member States seek to recover from passengers the costs of anti-terrorist security is unreasonable and discriminatory against civil aviation. Such costs should be a State responsibility and be met from central funds.

5. The Joint Committee recognizes the need to develop capacity at airports and in other areas of infrastructure as an issue of vital importance to the future growth of civil aviation. The Joint Committee recommends that States be encouraged to continue all work related to the introduction of further capacity, uninterrupted by the present traffic shortfall.

6. The Commission is urged to provide the social partners with more ample opportunities to discuss initiatives for harmonization of social, safety and technical measures and to protect and promote employment in the industry.

