

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2967/00
by Mariotto Segni (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Regulations Nos 2408/92 and 3577/92

The aim of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92¹ of 23 July 1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes and Council Regulation (EEC) No 3577/92² of 7 December 1992 applying the principle of freedom to provide services to maritime transport within Member States (maritime cabotage) is to aid in the creation of an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is guaranteed.

The adoption of those two regulations was followed by the entry into force of the Treaties of Maastricht and Amsterdam, under which the Union's objectives include not just the completion of the internal market but also the strengthening of economic and social cohesion. Under the terms of those treaties, the Union and the Member States cannot work towards the completion of the internal market without at the same time pursuing the goal of economic and social cohesion.

Furthermore, Article 158 of the Amsterdam Treaty states that, in the pursuit of economic and social cohesion, the Union shall aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands. Notwithstanding this provision, neither Regulation 3577/92 nor Regulation 2408/92 takes account of the acknowledged structural disadvantages from which islands suffer, and which hamper the pursuit of economic and social cohesion.

Given that Community law, as established by the Court of Justice, requires the secondary legislation set out in regulations to comply with the provisions of the Treaties, what practical steps are currently being considered with a view to revising at the earliest opportunity these two regulations, which, in laying down provisions governing public service requirements for air and sea transport, fail to comply with the founding treaties by taking due account of the specific economic and social problems of island regions?

¹ OJ L 240., 24.8.1992, p. 8.

² OJ L 364, 12.12.1992, p. 7.