

Paris, Thursday 22 December 2005

OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PASSENGER ZONE

Today, the French Parliament and Senate have approved the bill concerning transport safety and development as submitted by Mr. Dominique Perben, French Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, Tourism and the Sea.

Amendment number 47 as adopted therefore inserts into Article L.720-5 of the French Code of Commerce, the words: *"the shops accessible only to passengers holding tickets and located within the airport enclosures"*.

The grounds presented for this amendment state:

"The areas reserved for passengers at airports do not compete with local markets but with similar areas at international airports.

These areas must be recognised as specific areas, so as to establish a formal legal framework for the conditions of competition and the means of distribution (labelling, distinctive packaging; sales to passengers in transit, specific opening conditions) because sales in these areas are dependent on the presentation of a valid passenger ticket.

This amendment is intended to guarantee traders located in the above areas of airports the means to compete with their international competitors."

With regard to the reasoning, Mr. Dominique Le Mèner, the rapporteur for the Economic Affairs Commission at the French Parliament, highlighted in support of amendment 47 in the public session of the Parliament on Wednesday 14 December 2005:

"Shops that are accessible only to passengers holding tickets located within the airport enclosure are clearly not in competition with other shops. The amendment is thus aimed at ensuring that they have the means of competing against international competition by exempting them from the procedures for authorisation to trade".

This vote by the French Parliament has thus defined an overriding regulatory context for sales intended for passengers holding valid tickets that is separate from the local market and recognises as a result "the passenger zone".