



## ***Airports Maintain Right to Sell Duty-Free to Transfer Passengers***

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Brussels – 05 September 2008:

The ETRC can today confirm that the European Commission's recently published proposal on Excise Duty has been amended to allow airports to continue selling duty free products to passengers who are transferring onwards outside the EU.

Under current rules in most EU countries, a passenger taking an intra-EU flight and then transferring onwards to a third country is free to buy duty-free goods at either EU airport. For example, if a passenger takes a flight from Dublin Airport to London Heathrow and then travels onwards to Dubai, they can purchase duty-free items in Dublin, as their final destination is outside the European Union.

This arrangement was threatened under the Commission's proposal, which planned to restrict passengers to buying only duty-free at their last stop before leaving the EU. The Member States have however now confirmed that the rules ***will remain as they are.***

ETRC and its member companies mounted a successful lobbying campaign across Europe over the past few months bringing the harmful effects of the proposed legislation to the attention of national governments, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

ETRC President Frank O'Connell said; "I am delighted with the stance taken by the Member States in changing this proposal. The proposed change to the rules would have had a significant effect upon retail revenues in regional airports across Europe especially those that feed the major hubs. I am particularly happy as airports in countries such as Ireland and those on the periphery of Europe would have been particularly disadvantaged by the proposed measure."

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