



Council of the
European Union

146546/EU XXV. GP
Eingelangt am 09/06/17

Brussels, 8 June 2017
(OR. en)

12928/96
DCL 1

TRANS 177
AER 50
AELE 45

DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	ST12928/96 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED
dated:	16 December 1996
new status:	Public
Subject:	Negotiations between the European Community and Switzerland on land and air transport

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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RESTREINT

TRANS 177

AER 50

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RESTREINT

CONCLUSIONS

of : the Council

on : 12/13 December 1996

No. prev. doc.	:	5824/95 TRANS 39 AER 13 AELE 14 + COR 1	RESTREINT
		12174/96 TRANS 160 AER 47 AELE 38	RESTREINT
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Subject : Negotiations between the European Community and Switzerland on land and air transport

Council broadly endorsed the package of measures outlined by the Commission in its non-paper. In particular, there was acceptance of its proposal to set a maximum charging level for Switzerland (still to be defined). Broad comparability of conditions, including charges, should be established in both the Community and Switzerland; one objective would be to avoid traffic diversion in the Alpine regions. The Council emphasised the need to respect the fundamental principles in the non-paper, particularly that of non-discrimination. Council recognised the need for appropriate safeguard mechanisms to protect the interests of both sides particularly in the Alpine region.

Council asked the Commission in its negotiations with Switzerland to further pursue access to industrial centres for 40 tonne trucks as well as securing transit arrangements for such trucks.

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Following on the conclusions of the General Affairs Council on 6 December, the Council recognised the need for an early conclusion to these negotiations and stressed the importance of transport remaining an integral part of an overall agreement with Switzerland.

In arriving at these conclusions, Council also recognised that there were still issues outstanding in relation to air transport which were still being pursued within the negotiations mandate.

These conclusions also require the pursuit of discussions within Council on the revision of the Eurovignette directive.

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