



INFORMAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

INFORMATION ON AVIATION SECURITY

FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Following the failed terrorist attack of 25th December on North West's Flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit, the Ministers of Transport have been discussing the problem of aviation security, as a continuation of the joint USA-EU declaration adopted during the meeting of the Ministers of Justice and the Interior held in Toledo on 21st January last.

The Ministers reaffirmed their determination to continue deploying all necessary efforts to ensure the highest levels of security in the air transport sector.

Furthermore, the Ministers have considered that the best way of strengthening aviation security in the future is through a joint strategy developed within the framework of the European Union.

In this sense, the Ministers have considered that, in order to protect passengers effectively, the use of most advanced technologies in security control should play a fundamental role.

Among these technologies, the installation of body scanners at airports will be studied as one of the possible options, provided that the intimacy of passengers and the protection of health and other fundamental rights are respected at Community level.

During the discussions, the Ministers gave a favourable response to



the intention of the European Commission to present a report on the use of these technologies. The report will include, among other things, the points debated today, as a first step to a future legislative proposal from the Commission, intended to establish common rules at EU level, which will also include a consideration of its economic impact.

Likewise, the Ministers underlined the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the field of aviation security, both at bilateral level, particularly with the USA, within the framework of the open skies aviation agreement with the European Union, and at multi-lateral level, within the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).