

Duty free shops in the E.U.

Position paper

adopted by the Central Council (Brussels - December 1998)

ELEC is concerned about the present lobbying pressure exerted on governments to postpone application of the decision regarding duty free shops. It reiterates its support and agreement with the Council's unanimous decision to do away with duty free shops in the E.U. after 1 June 1999.

ELEC believes that the logical and crucial arguments put forward at the time of the decision - fiscal consistency, distortion among means of transportation, debatable advantages in the prices of many products, protecting public health from tobacco products and alcohol - remain entirely valid.

ELEC intends to carry out an in-depth study on this decision's potential impact on employment (from 20.000 to 120.000 job lost) in the light of the new figures recently published. It will inform the Commission and relevant government authorities of its results.
