

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks (Codified version)

COM(2006) 812 *final* — 2006/0264 (COD)

(2007/C 161/13)

On 17 January 2007 the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the above-mentioned proposal.

The Section for the Single Market, Production and Consumption, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its opinion on 7 February 2007. The rapporteur was Mr Grasso.

At its 434th plenary session, held on 14 and 15 March 2007 (meeting of 14 March), the European Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion by 157 votes with three abstentions.

1. Conclusions and recommendations

1.1 A codification of rules that have frequently been amended is essential if Community law is to be clear and transparent.

1.2 Codification must be undertaken in full compliance with the normal Community legislative procedure.

1.3 The purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification of Council Directive 89/104/EEC of 21 December 1988 to

approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks. The new Directive will supersede the various acts incorporated in it; this proposal fully preserves the content of the acts being codified and hence does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

1.4 The Committee endorses this codification.

Brussels, 14 March 2007.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS
