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European Economic and Social Committee

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| **INT/345**  **Approximation of trade mark laws** |

Brussels, 14 March 2007

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| **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) |
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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

*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).

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.

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**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

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| The President  of the  European Economic and Social Committee  Dimitris Dimitriadis | The Secretary-General  of the  European Economic and Social Committee  Patrick Venturini |

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