Merchant (2001) gives the generalization according to which, in sluicing, C is always null. - 'operator' = 'syntactic wh-XP' - 'meant to include complementizers, verbs, clitics, agreement morphemes, and the like.'

**Sluicing-COMP generalization (Merchant 2001, p. 62)**

- No T-to-C movement in sluicing:
  1. A: Max has invited someone.  
     B: Really? Who (*has)?  
     Eng.  
  2. A: Max hat jemanden eingeladen.  
     B: Echt? Wen (*hat)?  
     Ger.  
  3. A: Max heeft iemand uitgenodigd.  
     B: Ja? Wie (*heeft)?  
     Dut.  

- South Slavic 2nd position clitics are standard.

(10) These discourse particles and other topics and foci in sluicing constructions (from here on, examples in Slo, unless stated):

- No T-to-C movement in sluicing:
  1. A: Max has invited someone.  
     B: Really? Who (*has)?  
     Eng.  
  2. A: Max hat jemanden eingeladen.  
     B: Echt? Wen (*hat)?  
     Ger.  
  3. A: Max heeft iemand uitgenodigd.  
     B: Ja? Wie (*heeft)?  
     Dut.  

(11) In Slovenian some discourse particles can appear after the wh-word in sluicing constructions (from here on, examples in Slo, unless stated):

5. a: A: Peter je videl nekogo.  
   B: Koga pa < je videl>?  
   Peter aux saw someone.  
   Who PTCL aux saw  
   'Peter saw someone. Who?'  

5. b: A: Peter je videl nekogo.  
   B: Koga ŽE < je videl>?  
   Peter aux saw someone.  
   Who PTCL aux saw  
   'Peter saw someone. Please tell me again, who?'  

5. c: A: Peter je videl Janez.  
   B: Koga ŽE < je videl>?  
   Peter aux saw someone.  
   Who PTCL aux saw  
   'Peter saw someone. Who else?'

How can we account for this non-operator material in COMP?

References: