Resolution on measures for the implementation of the common basic standards on aviation security (introduction of liquids onto aircraft)

2007/2516(RSP) - 05/09/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 5 September 2007, the European Parliament adopted a joint resolution by 464 votes in favour to 158 against, with 70 abstentions, on Commission Regulation (EC) No 1546/2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 622/2003 laying down measures for the implementation of the common basic standards on aviation security (introduction of liquids onto aircraft). Parliament stated its support for all security measures against terrorist risks in aviation that are realistically designed to minimise risk and are not disproportionate. It pointed out that controls of liquids in hand luggage by X-ray equipment cannot detect explosives in liquids, and called upon the Commission and the Member States to intensify their efforts to support research studies to find effective tools for the detection of explosives in liquids.

Members considered that Regulation (EC) No 1546/2006 has not been implemented uniformly and consistently at all airports within the European Union and asked that this implementation be carried out. They noted the increased costs to airports and operators of implementing that Regulation. They also noted, whilst appreciating the need for high-quality security, the costs to aviation passengers resulting from the confiscation of private property as a result of the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1546/2006.

Parliament recognised the substantial inconvenience and disruption caused to passengers, especially transit passengers, and operators by Regulation (EC) No 1546/2006, and was concerned that the costs incurred as a result of that Regulation may not be proportionate to its added value in terms of the additional security obtained through its implementation. It called upon the Commission to act, as provided for by Article 232 of the EC Treaty, by publishing and making available to citizens the verbatim text of the prohibitions and restrictions which can be applied to them, as well as the list of exceptions to the same and the reasons for the measure.

Lastly, it called upon the Commission to review urgently and – if no further conclusive facts are brought forward – to repeal Regulation (EC) No 1546/2006 (introduction of liquids onto aircraft).