Common rules ensuring basic air connectivity following the end of the transition period mentioned in the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community

2020/0363(COD) - 18/12/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 680 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules ensuring basic air connectivity following the end of the transition period mentioned in the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

The proposal is part of a package of temporary contingency measures to alleviate some of the major disruptions that will occur on 1 January 2021 in the event that an agreement with the United Kingdom is not yet reached. It aims to ensure the provision of certain air services between the United Kingdom and the European Union for a period until 30 June 2021 (or until the date of entry into force of an agreement with the United Kingdom if earlier), provided that the United Kingdom does likewise.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure by amending the Commission proposal as follows:

Traffic rights

As the crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic poses significant logistical challenges for Member States, Member States could authorise, on an ad hoc basis and in accordance with their national law, the provision of the following services on their territory by a UK air carrier:

(a) air ambulance services;

(b) non-scheduled all-cargo air services between points in their territory and points in a third country as part of a service originating or terminating in the United Kingdom to the extent necessary for the carriage of medical equipment, vaccines and medicines, provided that such services do not constitute a disguised form of scheduled air services.

Exercise of competence

In view of the exceptional and unique circumstances that necessitate the adoption of this Regulation and in accordance with the Treaties, it is appropriate for the Union to exercise temporarily the relevant shared competence conferred upon it by the Treaties. However, any effect of this Regulation on the division of competences between the Union and the Member States should be strictly limited in time. The competence

exercised by the Union should therefore only be exercised with respect to the period of application of this Regulation. Accordingly, the shared competence thus exercised should cease to be exercised by the Union as soon as this Regulation ceases to apply.