Air transport safety: third countries aircraft using Community airports

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70/98 The Council's common position on establishing a Directive on a Safety Assessment of Third Country's aircraft using EU airports came under heavy fire, when the Committee on Transport and Tourism demanded that the public be informed about safety problems with third-country aircraft or operators. Council took the view that dissemination of this information could be misinterpreted and that the public might decide to avoid flying with such operators. By adopting Antonio GONZALEZ TRIVINO's (ERA, E) draft recommendation for second reading under the cooperation procedure, the Committee felt unanimously that EU citizens have the right to make an informed choice as to the risks to take in flying with a certain carrier. Mr GONZALEZ TRIVINO took a firm stand against the Council's text, but had to admit that the common position was reached by unanimous vote. The final text would presumably also be adopted unanimously. Consequently, he proposed a basic core of amendments with a view to their being taken up by the Commission and adopted in Council by qualified majority vote. The Committee took on board the following amendments: - All third-country aircraft landing at EU airports and suspected of not complying with international air safety standards should be subject to ramp inspections at all EU airports open to international passenger and freight traffic; - Each Member State should publish half yearly information to the public concerning the number of aircraft grounded, including the type of aircraft, the name and country of the operator, airport and date and corrective measures notified as a consequence of the grounding; - The European Commission should point out the Community-wide implications of a perceived safety hazard concerning third-country aircraft and propose any measure deemed necessary at Community level.