


Basic information	
2003/2568(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects Resolution on the EU/USA negotiations on the transfer of personal data by airlines in the case of transatlantic flights Subject 1.20.09 Protection of privacy and data protection 3.20.01 Air transport and air freight 7.30.20 Action to combat terrorism Geographical area United States	Procedure completed

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/09/2003	Debate in Parliament		
09/10/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0429/2003	Summary
09/10/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2568(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B5-0277/2003	23/09/2003	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0411/2003	23/09/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T5-0429/2003	09/10/2003	Summary

Resolution on the EU/USA negotiations on the transfer of personal data by airlines in the case of transatlantic flights

The European Parliament adopted a resolution by 445 votes to 31, with 21 abstentions. The resolution was drafted by Johanna BOOGERD-QUAAK (ELDR, NL). The resolution refers to the fact that, since 11 September 2001, the USA has put into place various measures to strengthen border controls. As of 1 October 2003, only passengers with a 'machine readable passport' are able to enter without a visa and passengers in the near future will be required to have a passport containing biometric data. Parliament stated that the data protection provided by the US authorities is inadequate, because: - the objective that would justify obtaining and storing data remains unclear and is not restricted to fighting terrorism. There is a risk, therefore, that the data could be used for other purposes, including transfer to other services of the US administration or to third parties; - the number of items of data required (39 different passenger name record elements) seems excessive and is out of proportion to the aim pursued; - the retention of data (6/7 years) seems unjustified, particularly with regard to persons that do not present any risk to the country's security; - the undertakings envisaged by the US administration seem not only insufficient, but also do not represent obligations. This means that they cannot be invoked before a court either by the EU or by passengers; Parliament asked the Commission to ensure the following conditions for data transfer: - there is no discrimination against non-US passengers and no retention of data beyond the length of a passenger's stay on US territory; - passengers are provided with full and accurate information before purchasing their ticket and give their informed consent regarding the transfer of such data to the USA; - passengers have access to a swift and efficient appeals procedure, should any problem arise, The Commission is also asked to evaluate the efficacy of EU-US police cooperation in the fight against terrorism, and its respect for fundamental rights. The compatibility of those two aims needs to be examined. Parliament also felt that the compatibility with Directive 95/46/EC with other projects must be investigated. It referred particularly to the introduction in the EU of passports with electronic chips on which biometric data can be stored. Finally, the Commission should take steps to facilitate the implementation of computer-based filter systems for controlled access to passenger data such as the Secured Short-Term PNR Store project developed by Austrian Airlines and the Austrian Data Protection Authority.