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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM
THE CHAIRMAN

TRAN/D/2008/65282

319067 07.11.2008

Mr Marcin Libicki
Chairman of the Committee on Petitions
ASP 04F158
Brussels

Subject: Petition No 0385/2008 on Europe-wide recognition of a disabled person's identity card

Dear Chairman, dear colleague,

Thank you for your communication on the above. At first view there does seem to be a case for Europe-wide recognition of a disabled person's identity card for the purposes of public transport, although any legislative proposal to support this would have to come from the Commission. Recognition of a disabled person's card would not of itself establish a common set of rules for disabled persons on public transport throughout the EU. In the example the petitioner gives recognition of an Austrian disabled person's card by the Dutch authorities would not entitle the holder to the same set of rights which he or she may have as a disabled person travelling on public transport in Austria.

You may be interested to learn of recent legislative developments at the EU level which impact on passengers with reduced mobility and which have been facilitated by the Committee on Transport and Tourism.

Regulation 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations requires railway undertakings to ensure that passengers with reduced mobility (PRMs) benefit from non-discriminatory access rules. Tickets and reservations must be offered to them at no extra cost. PRMs have a right to information on accessibility, rolling stock and platforms are to be made accessible to PRMs over time and free assistance to board must be provided. 'All reasonable efforts' are to be made to provide assistance on board and compensation is to be provided for loss or damage to mobility equipment.

Regulation 1007/2006 concerns the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility travelling by air. Carriage cannot be refused on the grounds of disability or reduced mobility, except under very stringent conditions related to public safety. Assistance must be

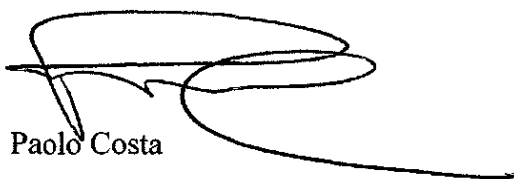
provided, free of charge, from the passenger's point of arrival at an airport for departure. Quality standards are established in this legislation as are requirements on staff training.

Directive 2003/24 amending Directive 98/18 on safety rules and standards for passenger ships sets down safety requirements for persons with reduced mobility and obliges Member States to ensure that appropriate means are taken, to enable passengers with reduced mobility to have safe access to all passenger ships of the most frequently used classes, and all high speed passenger craft used for public transport.

My committee will continue to monitor closely the general question of the rights on public transport of passengers with reduced mobility, especially as legislation comes forward for other sectors, for example bus and coach passengers.

I hope this information is of assistance.

With kind regards,



Paolo Costa

Enclosures: Regulation 1371/2007
Regulation 1107/2006.
Directive 2003/24/EC amending Directive 98/18/EC

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LETTRE

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