



2016/2062(INI)

25.5.2016

AMENDMENTS

1 - 57

Draft opinion
Anneleen Van Bossuyt
(PE582.050v01-00)

An aviation strategy for Europe
(2016/2062(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the inclusion of a specific section on consumers in the Commission's Aviation Strategy; notes that for consumers booking travel many of the applicable rights are still based on horizontal consumer protection legislation; considers, therefore, that the 'Fitness Check' on the consumer acquis should take into account *the impact on this sector*;

Amendment

1. Welcomes the inclusion of a specific section on consumers in the Commission's Aviation Strategy; notes that for consumers booking travel many of the applicable rights are still based on horizontal consumer protection legislation; considers, therefore, that the 'Fitness Check' on the consumer acquis should take *that* into account;

Or. fr

Amendment 2
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

1a. Recognises the importance of the aviation sector as an engine for growth, employment and new business opportunities for the European economy, and its crucial role in the mobility of goods, people and services in the internal market;

Amendment

Or. pt

Amendment 3
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Strongly encourages the Commission in seeking to support research and innovation in the aviation sector through public-private partnerships, the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, European Structural and Investment Funds and the European Fund for Strategic Investments; stresses the need to give priority to a European investment strategy based on a concerted rather than fragmented approach;

Or. fr

Amendment 4
Francesc Gambús

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Welcomes the fact that the Commission is considering the adoption of the one-stop security approach, where passengers would undergo a single security check at the airport of origin without needing to undergo fresh checks at transit airports, and welcomes the fact that it is promoting the adoption of this approach with key trading partners, without impairing security;

Or. es

Amendment 5
Marc Tarabella

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Points up the need to adopt, as soon as possible, the measures proposed in connection with revision of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 on air passenger rights in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights so that passengers are better protected and better informed about their rights;

Or. fr

**Amendment 6
Carlos Coelho**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Recognises the importance of the aviation sector in the European aeronautics industry, a world leader in the production of civil aircraft that is responsible for more than 500 000 jobs in the EU;

Or. pt

**Amendment 7
Carlos Coelho**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

1c. Recognizes the benefits from the liberalisation of the air transport in the EU and creation of the single market for the air passenger services;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Francesc Gambús

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Regrets the continued blocking of the procedure for adopting the revision of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 on passenger rights in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights;

Or. es

Amendment 9
Marc Tarabella

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Regrets that the Commission's Aviation Strategy does not take account of social issues, in particular equality of treatment between workers and the fight against social dumping;

Or. fr

Amendment 10
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Regrets the fragmentation of European Union airspace, the cost of

which is put at EUR 5 billion by the Commission and which, in particular, results in delays for passengers;

Or. fr

Amendment 11
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1d. Urges the Council to make a quick progress in the adoption process of the revised regulations on the air passenger rights^{1a};

^{1a} Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights and Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air (COM(2013)0130 – C7-0066/2013 – 2013/0072(COD))

Or. en

Amendment 12
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1c. Points to the importance of protecting and enforcing, both online and

offline, the rights of travel-booking and travelling consumers, including persons with a disability and persons with reduced mobility, as regards accessibility and assistance;

Or. fr

Amendment 13
Maria Grapini

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Recalls the ‘sweep’ of travel service websites across the Union undertaken by the Commission and national enforcement bodies in 2013; notes that this ‘sweep’ uncovered significant problems with more than two-thirds of websites checked, with difficulties relating to: a failure to provide mandatory contact information; a lack of instructions on how to submit a complaint; price supplements such as baggage fees and insurance not appearing on an ‘opt-in’ basis; and total prices not being displayed up-front;

Amendment

2. Recalls the ‘sweep’ of travel service websites across the Union undertaken by the Commission and national enforcement bodies in 2013; notes that this ‘sweep’ uncovered significant problems with more than two-thirds of websites checked, with difficulties relating to: a failure to provide mandatory contact information; a lack of instructions on how to submit a complaint, ***uncertainty as to whether the complaint has been received or failure to reply***; price supplements such as baggage fees and insurance, ***or cancellation and amended booking policies*** not appearing on an ‘opt-in’ basis; and total prices not being displayed up-front;

Or. ro

Amendment 14
Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Calls therefore on the Commission

to undertake further research study on the evolution of the digital travel marketplace with a view to identifying policies to ensure a level playing field for travel companies and protecting consumers by providing for transparency and neutrality when they search for, plan and book travel products and services;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Maria Grapini

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. *Highlights the lack of transparency and insufficiency of the regulations on compensation or rights to damages where the flight chart or conditions have not been complied with;*

Or. ro

Amendment 16
Philippe Juvin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Regrets that the public consultation undertaken in advance of the Aviation Strategy indicates that consumers still face challenges when booking air travel; calls on the Commission to report more fully on the progress made to bring travel websites into compliance with EU law, and its future plans for enforcement in this area;

4. Regrets that the public consultation undertaken in advance of the Aviation Strategy indicates that consumers still face challenges when booking air travel; calls on the Commission to report more fully on the progress made to bring travel websites into compliance with EU law, and its future plans for enforcement in this area, *as regards both online and offline air ticket sales;*

Amendment 17

Maria Grapini

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Regrets that the public consultation undertaken in advance of the Aviation Strategy indicates that consumers still face challenges when booking air travel; calls on the Commission to report more fully on the progress made to bring travel websites into compliance with EU law, and its future plans for enforcement in this area;

Amendment

4. Regrets that the public consultation undertaken in advance of the Aviation Strategy indicates that consumers still face challenges when booking air travel ***or checking in online***; calls on the Commission to report more fully on the progress made to bring travel websites into compliance with EU law, and its future plans for enforcement in this area;

Or. ro

Amendment 18

Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. ***Regrets*** that the public consultation undertaken in advance of the Aviation Strategy indicates that consumers still face challenges when booking air travel; calls on the Commission to report more fully on the progress made to bring travel websites into compliance with EU law, and its future plans for enforcement in this area;

Amendment

4. ***Highlights*** that the public consultation undertaken in advance of the Aviation Strategy indicates that consumers still face challenges when booking air travel; calls on the Commission to report more fully on the progress made to bring travel websites into compliance with EU law, and its future plans for enforcement in this area;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Francesc Gambús

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Calls on the Commission to activate an electronic one-stop shop mechanism to make it easier for passengers affected by cancellations, long delays and other disruptions to their journeys to submit complaints;

Or. es

Amendment 20
Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Takes the view that quality standards are important as a means of levelling the playing field for operators in the aviation sector and increasing transparency for the consumer;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Francesc Gambús

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4b. Calls on the Commission to step up checks on airlines in general and low-cost airlines in particular to ensure that they are complying with EU law on

passenger rights and aviation safety;

Or. es

Amendment 22
Maria Grapini

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Underlines the importance of ensuring that travel websites respect EU law, as in 2015 travel and holiday accommodation bookings accounted for 52 % of all purchases made online;

Amendment

5. Underlines the importance of ensuring that travel websites respect EU law, ***in particular EU law on consumer rights***, as in 2015 travel and holiday accommodation bookings accounted for 52 % of all purchases made online, ***and consumer confidence in the sector and increased trust in the online environment are vital for the development of SMEs in the tourism industry;***

Or. ro

Amendment 23
Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Underlines the importance of ensuring that travel websites respect EU law, as in 2015 travel and holiday accommodation bookings accounted for 52 % of all purchases made online;

Amendment

5. Underlines the importance of ensuring that travel websites respect EU law, as in 2015 travel and holiday accommodation bookings accounted for 52 % of all purchases made online; ***takes the view that consumers using sites must be correctly informed and not misled, and that companies need to take the necessary steps to protect consumers and hosts with regard to safety and security;***

Or. en

Amendment 24
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Underlines the importance of ensuring that travel websites respect EU law, as in 2015 travel and holiday accommodation bookings accounted for 52 % of all purchases made online;

Amendment

5. Underlines the importance of ensuring that travel websites ***and applications*** respect EU law, as in 2015 travel and holiday accommodation bookings accounted for 52 % of all purchases made online;

Or. fr

Amendment 25
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Takes the view that firms providing services in the aviation sector should provide consumers with clear and comprehensive information that will not mislead consumers; takes the view that such information should be legible and written in comprehensible terms, without applying practices or contractual conditions that discriminate against consumers or create mistrust within the EU internal market, in particular in the area of online purchases;

Or. pt

Amendment 26
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. *Stresses that particular attention should be paid to the needs of vulnerable consumers as part of the strategy, with regard not just to accessibility, but also to access to information and protection of their rights;*

Or. pt

Amendment 27
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Reiterates its commitment to high air and airport safety and security standards, which are vital for consumer confidence and for the sector's competitiveness; points up in this connection how important it is, at a time of strong air traffic growth, that those standards should limit passenger inconvenience, in particular as regards waiting times and delays, while ensuring a high level of safety and security and compliance with fundamental rights;*

Or. fr

Amendment 28
Lucy Anderson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Agrees that the revision of Regulation 261/2004 on air passengers' rights should be progressed swiftly in order to ensure clear, consistent and just rules for airlines and passengers; notes the Commission's intention to publish interpretative guidelines but stresses that the adoption of the revised Regulation 261/2004 is necessary to provide legal certainty for consumers and the aviation industry and address loopholes in the current legislation;*

Or. en

Amendment 29
Kerstin Westphal, Evelyne Gebhardt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Regrets the fact that agreement has still not been reached within the Council on the Passenger Rights Regulation (revision of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004), on which Parliament submitted its report in April 2014; calls therefore on the Council to explain, within two months following publication of this report, what is making it difficult to reach agreement;*

Or. de

Amendment 30
Dennis de Jong

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Takes note of the Commission's recommendation to the Council to issue authorisation to negotiate 'comprehensive EU-level air transport agreements' with, amongst other countries, Gulf States; emphasises, however, that substantive negotiations should not commence before a solution has been found in respect to the massive state aid provided to the Gulf Carriers by their states;*

Or. en

Amendment 31
Philippe Juvin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Welcomes the notable increase in airport connectivity in the EU over the last 10 years; regrets the fact that some regions are still poorly served, however, and calls on Member States to increase connectivity still further, given that it is so vital for the competitiveness of those regions;*

Or. fr

Amendment 32
Francesc Gambús

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Sees a need for free competition and the decentralisation of state airport*

networks, along with majority participation by local and regional authorities together with interested civil society bodies in strategic commercial decision-making relating to airports;

Or. es

Amendment 33
Anneleen Van Bossuyt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Calls on the Commission to assess the fairness of practices whereby consumers are faced with significant charges for baggage fees or ticketing services where not pre-booked prior to the consumer checking-in or arriving at the departure gate;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Kaja Kallas, Antanas Guoga, Maria Grapini, Dita Charanzová, Roberta Metsola

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Regrets that consumers of less-connected cities, regions and countries have a significant competitive disadvantage compared to major hubs and thus calls on the Commission to take action on improving intra-EU connectivity;

Or. en

Amendment 35
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Believes that the development of the new technologies and digital solutions could bring significant benefits, for instance making the security measures more efficient and consumer friendly, without lowering the safety standards;*

Or. en

Amendment 36
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. *Highlights the importance of a coordinated approach among Member States in areas related to the aviation sector, such as tourism, safety, consumer policy and the environment;*

Or. pt

Amendment 37
Dennis de Jong

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. *Welcomes the Commission's ambition to strengthen the regulatory responsibility of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); however,*

underlines that safety cannot be compromised, especially from consumer perspective, and is therefore worried regarding the Commission's intention to introduce competition as a relevant factor in this regard; furthermore, notes that competition has led to degrading working conditions for aviation crew, which indirectly influences the safety of crew and passengers alike;

Or. en

Amendment 38
Anneleen Van Bossuyt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. Recalls that consumers must always have an accessible route to address complaints to traders and to claim refunds; believes this route should be available in a manner which does not dissuade consumers from exercising their rights and should be clearly signposted to consumers; calls on the Commission to work closely with national enforcement bodies to ensure that traders meet these requirements;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Lucy Anderson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. Regrets the Aviation Strategy's limited consideration of developments in

employment models in the aviation sector; stresses that the use of atypical forms of employment can undermine fair competition and efforts to ensure a level playing field for operators; calls for decent social standards to be upheld in all aviation activities to prevent anti-competitive employment practices;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. Takes the view that an aviation strategy for Europe should respect the principle of territorial cohesion; takes the view that particular attention should be given to the smallest airports, especially in the outermost and less populated regions where the growth in air routes and moderate airport taxes are vital for the local economy;

Or. pt

Amendment 41
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. Stresses the need to ensure high standards as regards public health requirements for residents near airports (in particular noise and air quality standards) and points up the importance of making rapid progress on adopting

demanding international noise standards;

Or. fr

Amendment 42
Kerstin Westphal, Evelyne Gebhardt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. *Calls on the Commission to provide the Council with guidance for its discussions on revision of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 so that the obstacles to a final agreement on the issue are overcome;*

Or. de

Amendment 43
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6d. *While recognising the potential of the rapidly expanding use of the drones, having a passenger safety and security as a priority urges the Commission to put in place an adequate framework to ensure their safe use within the EU;*

Or. en

Amendment 44
Philippe Juvin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. *Welcomes the Commission's intention to maintain high safety and security standards while alleviating the burden of checks by making use of new technologies;*

Or. fr

Amendment 45
Robert Rochefort

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. *Welcomes the Commission's decision to make use of interpretative guidelines on Regulation No 261/2004 on air passenger rights in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights so as to improve application thereof; stresses the importance, at the same time, of rapidly adopting the revised regulation;*

Or. fr

Amendment 46
Dennis de Jong

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. *Regrets that the Commission does not mention Passenger Rights (PR) in their Communication; calls on the Council to find a solution to the current impasse regarding the proposed directive on Passenger Rights (COM(2011)0898) and avoid that any further delays causes*

consumers to remain in an uncertain situation regarding their rights;

Or. en

Amendment 47
Anneleen Van Bossuyt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. *Requests the Commission to provide more information regarding planned actions affecting price comparison websites in the area of aviation travel, which can be detrimental to consumers if presented in an unfair manner where preferential treatment is given according to commercial arrangements;*

Or. en

Amendment 48
Kerstin Westphal, Evelyne Gebhardt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. *Stresses the importance of protecting consumers against unfair terms in air carriage contracts; calls on the Commission to put forward appropriate countermeasures in a legislative proposal;*

Or. de

Amendment 49
Lucy Anderson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. Believes that environmental considerations are an important element of consumer choice; urges the Commission to ensure that improving the environmental performance of the EU's aviation sector is prioritised across all elements of the Aviation Strategy;

Or. en

Amendment 50
Carlos Coelho

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6e. Highlights the need for air agents and operators to promote the 112 European emergency number on their websites and e-tickets;

Or. pt

Amendment 51
Kerstin Westphal, Evelyne Gebhardt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6d. Regrets the fact that the Commission, according to its communication COM(2015) 598, proposes in future to concentrate solely on clarifying current passenger rights

(Regulation (EC) No 261/2004); fears that, as a result, passenger rights will not be taken further and consumer rights will not be improved;

Or. de

Amendment 52
Lucy Anderson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6d. Stresses that safety and security considerations must be at the core of any and all efforts to enhance the performance and efficiency of the Single European Aviation Market, to ensure the continued trust of consumers and the competitiveness of the EU's aviation sector globally;

Or. en

Amendment 53
Lucy Anderson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6e. Notes the Commission's intention to transition towards a risk and performance based approach for common rules in the field of civil aviation safety; draws attention to the findings of the Aviation Strategy's accompanying safety performance study, which concluded that approximately only 1/3 of National Aviation Authorities are 'sufficiently well-resourced and skilled to exercise appropriate oversight'; is concerned

therefore about the implications for the single market and consumer confidence of a move away from the current aviation system of comprehensive and specific safety standards, which continue to achieve high safety performance in European aviation;

Or. en

Amendment 54
Kerstin Westphal, Evelyne Gebhardt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6e. Stresses that strengthened consumer rights within air passenger transport must be the objective of any reform of aviation rules;

Or. de

Amendment 55
Lucy Anderson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6f. Believes that systems of remedies for common rules in the field of civil aviation safety should take into account the seriousness, the duration and, where applicable, the intentional character of an infringement, as well as whether previous infringements have occurred; underlines the need for effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties to ensure a culture of compliance and high safety and security standards across the EU aviation sector;

Amendment 56
Kerstin Westphal

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6f. Observes that it is still not possible for all consumers in the EU to use air transport because, in some geographic areas, there is still no market push to establish routes; prompts the Commission therefore to carry out studies for those areas that are based on objective need;

Or. de

Amendment 57
Kerstin Westphal, Evelyne Gebhardt

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 g (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6g. Questions disapprovingly why the better legal safeguards for consumers under Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 currently in force are inadequately acted on in practice;

Or. de