

AMENDMENT 131

by Erik Meijer, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report**A6-0123/2005****Dirk Sterckx**

International rail passengers' rights and obligations

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2004)0143 – C6-0003/2004 – 2004/0049(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 131
Article 2, point 15

15) “delay” means the time between *departure and/or arrival* scheduled in the *working timetable or published* timetable, *including leaflets made available to passengers*, at the railway station of departure and/or arrival *on the one hand, and real-time departure and/or arrival of the international service or international high-speed service on the other hand*;

15) “delay” means the time between *the arrival time* scheduled in the timetable *and the actual arrival time. Alterations to the timetable which have been announced to passengers at least seven days in advance by means of leaflets, internationally accessible electronic information and* at the railway station of departure and/or arrival *shall not be regarded as delays*;

Or. fr

Justification

This amendment proposes a simplification, but with a longer period of notice for the announcement of changes to passengers, in order to avoid taking them by surprise with last-minute changes, while retaining the reference to the methods which should, at the minimum, be used in order to provide information seriously.

21.9.2005

A6-0123/132

AMENDMENT 132

by Erik Meijer, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report

A6-0123/2005

Dirk Sterckx

International rail passengers' rights and obligations

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2004)0143 – C6-0003/2004 – 2004/0049(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 132
Article 2, point 16

16) “cancellation” means the suspension of a scheduled *international* service *or international high-speed service*;

16) “cancellation” means the suspension of a scheduled service *except for services whose cancellation has been announced to passengers at least seven days in advance by means of leaflets, internationally accessible electronic information and at the railway station of departure and/or arrival*;

Or. fr

Justification

This amendment proposes a simplification, but with a longer period of notice for the announcement of changes to passengers, in order to avoid taking them by surprise with last-minute changes, while retaining the reference to the methods which should, at the minimum, be used in order to provide information seriously.

21.9.2005

A6-0123/133

AMENDMENT 133

by Erik Meijer, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report

A6-0123/2005

Dirk Sterckx

International rail passengers' rights and obligations

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2004)0143 – C6-0003/2004 – 2004/0049(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 133

Article 3, paragraph 3 a (new)

Information concerning timetables and connections shall be provided jointly or separately by railway undertakings, at the minimum in the form of a European railway timetable and by means of a website.

Or. fr

Justification

Addition. As railway companies are obliged to provide on request essential information for passengers undertaking long journeys, it will make it attractive for them to save money by producing this information and making it available jointly. A good example of how things could be done better in future is the English-language 'Kursbuch Europa' which is now available in English only in Germany and is the product of cooperation between Deutsche Bahn and Thomas Cook.

21.9.2005

A6-0123/134

AMENDMENT 134

by Erik Meijer, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report

A6-0123/2005

Dirk Sterckx

International rail passengers' rights and obligations

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2004)0143 – C6-0003/2004 – 2004/0049(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 134
Article 6, paragraph 1

1. Railway undertakings and/or tour operators shall offer tickets and/or through tickets for international journeys between at least the main railway stations *as well as to railway stations located in a zone with as midpoint the nearest railway station.*

1. Railway undertakings and/or tour operators shall offer tickets and/or through tickets for international journeys between at least the main railway stations, *other* railway stations *which are of significance as interchange points between long-distance services and to railway stations in adjoining parts of neighbouring States.*

Or. fr

Justification

Zones with midpoints would result in an obligation to make tickets available for every area comparable with the destination 'Greater Brussels'. That is a good solution, but in some cases it would cause railway undertakings problems. It is therefore better to apply the obligation specifically to big cities, interchange points and nearby border regions.

21.9.2005

A6-0123/135

AMENDMENT 135

by Erik Meijer and Helmuth Markov, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report

A6-0123/2005

Dirk Sterckx

International rail passengers' rights and obligations

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2004)0143 – C6-0003/2004 – 2004/0049(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 135
Article 11, paragraph 2

Without prejudice to Article 16, for delays less than **one hour** there is no right to compensation for consequential damages.

Without prejudice to Article 16, for delays less than **30 minutes** there is no right to compensation for consequential damages.

Or. fr

Justification

A passenger may suffer substantial consequential damages even where a delay is less than one hour. A limit of 30 minutes would therefore be significantly more favourable to passengers.

21.9.2005

A6-0123/136

AMENDMENT 136

by Erik Meijer, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report

A6-0123/2005

Dirk Sterckx

International rail passengers' rights and obligations

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2004)0143 – C6-0003/2004 – 2004/0049(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 136
Article 33, paragraph 2

2. Railway undertakings ***shall monitor their own performance as reflected in*** the service quality standards. Railway undertakings shall publish each year a report on their service quality performance together with their annual report. These results shall ***also*** be published on the internet website of the railway undertakings.

2. ***An independent agency shall monitor annually the performance of*** railway undertakings ***in the light of*** the service quality standards. Railway undertakings shall publish each year a report on their service quality performance together with their annual report. These results shall be published on the internet website of the railway undertakings ***together with the assessment by the independent agency.***

Or. fr

Justification

If quality, punctuality, speed and frequency are inadequate, many passengers will turn to a different mode of transport, so that the market share of rail will fall. Implementation of this article is important in order to systematically combat such a trend. The best guarantee of objectivity and an assessment which users will find credible is an assessment by an independent body, cooperating satisfactorily with railway companies.

21.9.2005

A6-0123/137

AMENDMENT 137

by Erik Meijer, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Report

A6-0123/2005

Dirk Sterckx

International rail passengers' rights and obligations

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2004)0143 – C6-0003/2004 – 2004/0049(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 137
Article 37

Railway undertakings shall ***inform the general public by appropriate means of any plans it has to*** discontinue international services.

Railway undertakings shall ***consult passengers' organisations in advance concerning their plans to*** discontinue ***long-distance or*** international services. ***No later than three months before such plans are implemented, they shall inform the general public by appropriate means.***

Or. fr

Justification

At present passengers may discover only shortly before a new annual timetable enters into force that their train service has been discontinued. Consultation with users' organisations is essential for improved services.