

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4421/05  
by Arūnas Degutis (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Clarification on the establishment of Airport Users' Committees

According to Council Directive 96/67/EC<sup>1</sup> on access to the groundhandling market at Community airports, it is stated that an Airport Users' Committee should be established within 12 months of the entry into force of this Directive when a Community airport reaches annual traffic of not less than 2 million passenger movements or 50 000 tonnes of freight.

The other Commission proposal ((2005)0047 final) concerning the rights of persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air, which is on the way to a vote in plenary, also mentions several times the 'Airport Users' Committee'. At present the annual limit of passenger movements is more likely to be 150 000 per year for the proposal to go into force. This size of airport does not fall under the groundhandling directive for establishment of an 'Airport Users' Committee'. Since the current Commission proposal on PRMs is very sensitive, it is not clear enough when the 'Airport Users' Committee' should be established at Community airports, and which regulation is applicable.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 272, 25.10.1996, p. 36.