Question for written answer E-007933/2016 to the Commission

Rule 130

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Subject: Home-printed bag tags for flight passengers

Passengers are increasingly embracing modern self-service technologies and have an appetite for further automation. An important aspect of enhanced self-service options is the self-tagging of luggage, i.e. allowing passengers to apply baggage tags to their own luggage. Self-tagging has already been widely introduced at self-service kiosks.

Another form of self-tagging is the use of home-printed bag tags (HPBT). Currently 22 countries in the world already allow passengers to use HPBT (including the US, Canada, Australia, Brazil and China). However, HPBT is still not available in the EU, owing to regulatory constraints. This jeopardises the passenger's ability to make wide use of this home-based self-service option and prevents airlines from deploying the self-service experience for passenger in accordance with their requests. Furthermore, enabling the use of HPBT at EU airports would help speed up the processing of passengers through check-in.

In light of the above, could the Commission indicate why this baggage tag format, which has already been adopted by other major regulators around the world, has not yet been approved for use in EU airports?

When does the Commission intend to allow the use of these home-printed baggage tags with a view to facilitating passengers' experiences at EU airports?

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