

**Question for oral answer O-0194/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Security standards in air freight

In a globalised world, terrorism has become a global threat independent of its root causes. In a democratic society no form of terrorism can have any possible justification. The democratic institutions have to adopt all necessary measures to guarantee citizens' safety. Some of them may have an impact on our normal lives or affect our freedom. Technologies are closely related to the latest advances in fighting terrorism, and this has become more apparent in the transport sector.

Parcels containing bombs have reportedly been transported on several flights. However, it is not yet clear whether these parcels were being transported on cargo planes or on commercial passenger flights.

These events have reignited the debate on air safety, with a focus on security concerns arising from the transport of air freight.

1. Does the Commission consider that the existing regulations adequately provide for the level of protection needed in the context of recent events, and does it plan to revise the current legislation to provide better security against such threats?
2. Is the Commission in a position to confirm that 40% of all air freight is being transported on commercial passenger flights?
3. If air freight is being carried on commercial passenger flights, can the Commission confirm whether this freight is only subject to checks in accordance with existing regulations? If so, does the Commission consider it necessary for this freight be subject to the same level of checks that passengers and their baggage are subject to before boarding a commercial passenger flight?
4. How will the Commission reconcile the need for stricter controls, either technical (e.g. scanners) or by other means of information (e.g. questionnaires), with passengers' right to privacy?
5. What steps will the Commission undertake to guarantee equal levels of security for flights coming from third countries?

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