

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Regional Development

2007/2092(INI)

18.7.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on airport capacity and ground handling: towards a more efficient policy
(2007/2092(INI))

Draftsman: Mieczysław Edmund Janowski

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Transport and Tourism, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission's proposals and underlines the importance of air transport in ensuring territorial, economic and social cohesion in the Union, in particular with regard to remote, peripheral and island regions;
2. Notes the importance of airports, which are sometimes the only 'window to the world', and calls on Member States, the Commission and regional authorities to take greater account of the fact that good internal and international air transport connections are often decisive with regard to the location of investment, the development of tourism and the rapid transportation of goods;
3. Taking account of the pace of air transport development, stresses that, with regard to regional communities, there should be an objective analysis of airports' air traffic capacity over at least the next 25 years, which will allow investment to be made in the construction of new airports and the modernisation of existing airports - including the conversion of former military airfields into civil airports - on a rational (and not solely ambitious) basis;
4. Calls on Member States and regional and local authorities to ensure that airports, regardless of their governing bodies, are included in regional spatial development plans or taken into account in regional development strategies; points out that the extension and construction of major infrastructure such as airports must be subject to a territorial impact assessment;
5. Underlines the need to ensure that the fastest possible transport links are provided between airports and town centres;
6. Stresses the importance of interregional, including cross-border, cooperation and considers it advisable to locate regional airports where they can most effectively serve neighbouring and border regions;
7. Considers it particularly useful to apply intermodal solutions where possible; takes the view that (high-speed) rail links between airports offer an ideal opportunity to ease the capacity problems of the airports concerned;
8. Stresses the economic importance of airports for job creation, particularly at regional level; points out that European airport operators, airlines, maintenance firms, caterers are in a position to create a significant number of jobs, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy;
9. Calls on Member States and regional and local authorities to take account of environmental factors when deciding where to locate airports, including noise, emissions, road traffic density in the vicinity of the airport, the proximity of fuel tanks, etc., and of meteorological factors;

10. Considers that the building and expansion of airport and related infrastructures should be adequately supported by national and regional authorities and receive appropriate financing under the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T), the Cohesion Fund and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

PROCEDURE

Title	Airport capacity and groundhandling: towards a more efficient policy
Procedure number	2007/2092(INI)
Committee responsible	TRAN
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 26.4.2007
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Mieczysław Edmund Janowski 7.6.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	7.6.2007
Date adopted	17.7.2007
Result of final vote	+: 40 –: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Alfonso Andria, Stavros Arnautakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Tiberiu Bărbulețiu, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Wolfgang Bulfon, Bairbre de Brún, Vasile Dîncu, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Pedro Guerreiro, Zita Gurmai, Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Filiz Hyusmenova, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Rumiana Jeleva, Evgeni Kirilov, Constanze Angela Krehl, Mario Mantovani, Sérgio Marques, James Nicholson, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Maria Petre, Markus Pieper, Pierre Pribetich, Wojciech Roszkowski, Elisabeth Schroedter, Grażyna Staniszevska, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Oldřich Vlasák
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jan Březina, Den Dover, Jill Evans, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Christa Prets, Samuli Pohjamo, Károly Ferenc Szabó
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Thomas Ulmer
Comments (available in one language only)	