

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001453/25
to the Commission**

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(9 April 2025)

Subject: The suspension of the screening of liquids, aerosols and gels in airports

Entering into force on 1 September 2024, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2108 halted the security screening of liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) in EU airports which use Explosive Detection Systems for Cabin Baggage (EDSCB) equipment meeting standard C3.

This decision was taken because the Commission had received technical information indicating that a specific configuration of standard C3 EDSCB equipment was not fit for purpose.

As a result, and in spite of the significant financial investments that had been made, the Commission reintroduced the previous limitations for LAG containers in all airports. Though this measure was supposed to be temporary, it is still in place, and there has been no news on how much progress has been made in evaluating whether the C3 EDSCB equipment can meet the required standards. This state of affairs is harming airport operators financially and is an inconvenience for passengers.

In the light of the above:

1. Given that Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2108 does not specify the duration of the suspension — instead defining it as ‘temporary’ and making mention of ‘reasonable periods’ — how long does the Commission think it will be before standard C3 EDSCB equipment is fully operational again?
2. In the months when standard C3 EDSCB equipment was being used, did the Commission receive any reports of malfunctions justifying a total suspension?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission

(8 August 2025)

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2108⁽¹⁾ put in place, as from 1 September 2024, a temporary restriction on liquid screening at EU airports using standard C3 Explosive Detection Systems for Cabin Baggage (EDSCB).

This measure was taken based on technical information received by the Commission and validated by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) States and laboratories, showing that the existing configurations of standard C3 EDSCB equipment needed to be revised to improve their performance in detecting liquid explosives. This measure was also in alignment with those of key international partners.

The restriction remained in place for the time necessary to complete the testing and validation of the new detection algorithms.

The Commission has since worked with all relevant parties to resolve this issue, through the development of the new testing methodology and detection algorithms.

As a result of these efforts, one configuration of standard C3 EDSCB equipment was approved on 25 July 2025. Following such approval, EU airports deploying that specific configuration may allow passengers to carry liquids, aerosols and gels in their cabin baggage in individual containers not exceeding two litres of volume.

It is up to the individual airports to inform their departing passengers about this possibility.

Other configurations of the same technology are currently being tested and will be approved upon successful completion of their testing.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2108/oj/eng.