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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.2.2026)

Under Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008¹, airlines have the freedom to set air fares, including for infant and child tickets. The Commission notes that many airlines offer reduced fares for children, while the charge for infants seated on an adult's lap is typically lower than a full adult fare. Infant and child fares typically also include the carriage of equipment such as pushchairs and child car seats in the hold of the aircraft.

The review of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 is currently underway. One of the topics being looked at is improving transparency and comparability of air fares, including the applicable conditions. Measures under consideration include ensuring that passengers travelling with children can all sit together at no extra cost.

The Commission recalls that EU air safety legislation² contains some basic provisions as regards the seating of infants (under 2 years) and unaccompanied children (under 12 years). The rule is that all passengers, including special categories of passengers (SCP), '...shall be carried under conditions that ensure the safety of the aircraft and its occupants according to procedures established by the operator', and the associated Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM)³ stipulates that 'If a child travels with an accompanying adult in the same class of cabin, the child should be seated in the same seat row segment as the accompanying adult. Where this is not possible, the child should be seated no more than one seat row or aisle away'. Air carriers and their operating procedures are bound to comply with EU air safety legislation.

Simple compliance with EU air safety rules cannot be made subject to an additional charge for passengers.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1008>.

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/965/2025-05-01>, ref. CAT.OP.MPA.155 Carriage of special categories of passengers, including associated Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM).

³ AMC1 CAT.OP.MPA.155(c) and GM2 CAT.OP.MPA.155(c).