

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000310/26
to the Commission
Merja Kyllönen (The Left)
(27 January 2026)

Subject: Harmonisation of cabin baggage size standards across the EU

The European Union has successfully regulated standards that benefit consumers and the environment, such as the harmonisation of charging adapters for mobile devices. The directive concerned has reduced waste, made life easier for consumers and brought more clarity to the market.

However, the permitted dimensions of cabin baggage still vary significantly for air passengers in the EU. Although the International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommends that cabin baggage should not exceed 56 cm x 45 cm x 25 cm, in practice the permitted dimensions vary a great deal from one airline to another. As a result, the size of passengers' cabin baggage can effectively determine which airline they can travel with. This leads to confusion, additional costs and unequal treatment of consumers.

More harmonised rules could improve consumer protection, increase transparency and make it easier to travel within the EU.

With the above in mind:

1. Has the Commission assessed the possibility of harmonising the maximum dimensions of cabin baggage for airlines operating in the EU, for example on the basis of IATA recommendations?
2. Does the Commission see the variations in the rules on the size of cabin baggage as an obstacle to the free movement of consumers and the functioning of the internal market?
3. Will the Commission consider legislative measures or other instruments to clarify and harmonise the rules on cabin baggage in the EU?

Submitted: 27.1.2026

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(1 April 2026)

The Commission refers to its reply to parliamentary Question P-2169/25, and to its responses to Petitions No 0837/2019, No 0015/2023 and No 1212/2023, and to its response ⁽¹⁾ to the Parliament Resolution ⁽²⁾ of 4 October 2023 on standardised dimensions for carry-on luggage.

1. The Commission acknowledges the potential inconvenience and confusion for passengers which results from the many different hand luggage policies in place at different airlines and for different classes of tickets.

The 2023 passenger rights proposal ⁽³⁾ calls for the airline industry to engage fully with other relevant stakeholders to establish common industry standards on the weight and dimension of hand luggage. In 2024, Commission services organised two workshops towards this objective.

Common standards are important to provide clarity to passengers. They should take into account both the business perspective and the objective of offering good travel conditions to passengers.

2. The Commission does not see the variations in the rules on the size of cabin baggage as an obstacle to free movement or the functioning of the internal market. However, common standards would improve clarity for consumers and make it easier to compare ticket offers of different airlines.
3. The Commission is looking at possible measures to clarify rules on cabin baggage allowances, including possible standards, as part of the review ⁽⁴⁾ of the Air Services Regulation ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ SP(2023)600 <https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/spdoc.do?i=60474&j=0&l=en>.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0344_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulations (EC) No 261/2004, (EC) No 1107/2006, (EU) No 1177/2010, (EU) No 181/2011 and (EU) 2021/782 as regards enforcement of passenger rights in the Union COM/2023/753 final, Recital 14.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14620-Aviation-EU-air-services-rules-revision-_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1008/oj/eng>.