

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.7.2025)

The Air Services Regulation¹ provides for pricing freedom of air carriers (Article 22) and lays down transparency obligations for display of prices for air services (Article 23).

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 Commission notes that stakeholders have divergent views on what would constitute ‘reasonable’ dimensions and weight for hand baggage referred to in the judgment in Case C-487/12². Such baggage with reasonable dimensions would following this judgement need to be included in the basic ticket price if it complies with applicable security requirements.

1. The 2023 passenger rights proposal³ calls for the airline industry to engage with other relevant stakeholders to create common industry standards on the weight and dimension of hand luggage. In 2024, Commission services organised two workshops towards this objective.

2. The 2013 passenger rights proposal⁴ partly addresses related concerns by requiring air carriers to inform passengers of the baggage allowance. The Council compromise text⁵ on the 2013 proposal explicitly refers to hand luggage, as does the Parliament report⁶ on the 2023 proposal. The Commission will support negotiations to help find a balanced and reasonable compromise, improving passenger rights while taking into account the views of all relevant stakeholders.

3. The Commission announced in its call for evidence the intention to assess possible measures to clarify hand luggage allowances as part of the review⁷ of the Air Services Regulation. This issue will be covered in the open public consultation which will soon be published.

¹ Regulation (EC) 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community (Recast), OJ L 293, 31.10.2008, p. 3, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1008/oj>.

² Judgment of 18 September 2014, *Vueling Airlines* (C-487/12), EU:C:2014:2232.

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 Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights and Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air COM/2013/0130 final.

⁵ Council document 9795/25 ADD 1.

⁶ Parliament procedural file 2023/0437(COD).

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14620-Aviation-EU-air-services-rules-revision-en>.