



Brussels, 3 July 2026
(OR. en, de, pt)

11389/26
ADD 1

Interinstitutional File:
2013/0072 (COD)

AVIATION 110
CONSOM 224
CODEC 1372

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft 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 (third reading) - Adoption of the legislative act = Statements

Latvia has requested that the following statements be entered in the Council minutes

Latvia fully supports the objective of ensuring a high level of passenger protection and welcomes the significant efforts made to reach a balanced compromise on this proposal.

At the same time, Latvia remains concerned that certain elements of the agreed text may create disproportionate financial and administrative burdens for air carriers, with potential consequences for ticket prices and air connectivity. These concerns are particularly relevant for peripheral Member States such as Latvia, where aviation plays a vital role in ensuring mobility, economic development and territorial cohesion.

Latvia also notes with concern the removal of provisions that would have provided greater legal certainty regarding operational decisions taken in the interest of aviation safety and remains cautious about the cumulative impact of new obligations on regional connectivity in an already challenging economic and geopolitical environment.

While recognizing the overall progress achieved in the negotiations and supporting the objective of strengthening passenger rights, Latvia considers that the current compromise proposal does not strike a sufficiently balanced outcome between passenger protection and air connectivity.

For these reasons, Latvia cannot support the proposed compromise proposal. Nevertheless, Latvia remains committed to constructive engagement in future efforts to ensure both strong passenger rights and sustainable air connectivity across the European Union.

Austria has requested that the following statements be entered in the Council minutes

For Austria, a balanced development of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 (Air Passenger Rights Regulation) is important in ensuring both a high level of protection for consumers as well as the economic viability and competitiveness of European aviation.

Austria therefore supports the fundamental objectives of the European Commission's proposal to revise the Air Passenger Rights Regulation.

It should be noted that, in Austria's view, the compromise text leads to a deterioration in the current legal position of passengers in a number of key areas.

Finally, Austria points out that the text raises many new questions of interpretation.

Austria therefore abstains.

Portugal has requested that the following statements be entered in the Council minutes

Portugal thanks the Cyprus Presidency and its predecessors for their work in negotiating the revision of the Air Passenger Rights Regulation and in their contacts with the European Parliament.

Portugal has always argued that any revision of the Regulation should not only make it simpler to implement, but also preserve and/or strengthen air passenger rights, so that passengers continue to benefit from protection that sets the standard for other regions of the world.

At the end of this lengthy negotiation process, we would have expected a more ambitious revision in terms of simplifying the application of the Regulation, striking a more favourable balance between its purpose and feasibility, and better identifying and distributing the responsibilities of each of the aviation stakeholders, with a view to ensuring genuinely sustainable air transport.

We maintain that certain situations should already be classified as extraordinary circumstances, namely the death or sudden illness of crew members while off base, safety shortcomings, widespread power cuts at airports, and the increasingly frequent drone interference at airports. We regret that the agreement does not include these elements.

However, in a spirit of compromise and recognising the difficulty of the negotiations, Portugal is voting in favour of the proposal so that the positive aspects of the revision can enter into force and improve the passenger rights protection regime.

We call for efforts to be made within multilateral institutions to ensure that this passenger protection regime can be extended globally, thereby creating a level playing field between EU airlines and carriers from other regions, to the benefit of global aviation.
