
European Parliament backs FARE on Airport Charges

Brussels – 21 November 2007

The Forum of European Regional Airports (FARE) welcomes today's vote by the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee to substantially amend the European Commission's new directive on Airport Charges. The committee this morning voted overwhelmingly to apply the directive only to Europe's largest airports, saving regional airports across Europe from the high costs and heavy administrative burdens of the new regulation.

The new directive regulates how airports across Europe charge air carriers for using their infrastructure¹. The directive mandates that airport operators annually report on charges components, services, how costs are calculated, revenues, charges forecasts and investments.

These reporting requirements would saddle regional airports with a heavy regulatory and high administrative costs and disadvantage otherwise-competitive regional airports. Fortunately, the committee has backed FARE's proposals to raise the application threshold of the directive from airports with 1 million passengers per year to 5 million passengers. This would exempt regional airports from the directive's requirements.

FARE Chairman Bart de Boer welcomed this morning's vote:

"FARE has campaigned hard for changes to this proposal because of the prospective cost to already competitive regional airports. We have worked closely with legislators to come up with a solution that would ensure transparency and effective regulation without crippling regional airports" said de Boer.

De Boer added *"today's vote demonstrates that policymakers are beginning to understand the important role that regional airports play. Regional airports are central to solving Europe's airport capacity problems and play a major role in regional development; bringing jobs, growth and prosperity to the citizens across Europe."*

The Airport Charges Directive will be reviewed by Member States in December, with governments already indicating their support to exempt regional airports from the directive. The full Parliament will vote to the committee's report in January.

For Further Information:

Conor Foley

Tel: +32 (0)2 649 3533

Mob: +32 (0)4 72 530 484

E-mail: team@regionalairports.eu

Web: www.regionalairports.eu

Note to Media:

The Forum for European Regional Airports (FARE) represents the interests of regional airports across Europe. The organisation works closely with European government and other stakeholder partners on

¹ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on airport charges – [COM\(2006\)820](#)

policy, regulatory issues and is composed of over 50 airport members from across the European Union. FARE's operations are directed by its six-member Executive Committee and carried out by a central secretariat. www.regionalairports.eu