

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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B4-0641/95

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on Oral Questions B4-0342 and 0343/95

pursuant to Rule 40(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Sarlis, McIntosh and Salafranca
Sánchez-Neyra

on behalf of the EPP Group

on the bilateral 'open skies' agreements

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PE 189.119
Or. fr

- * Consultation procedure
simple majority
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
majority of Parliament's component Members to give assent
but simple majority under Articles 8a, 105, 106, 130d and 228 EC

- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members to adopt a declaration of intended
rejection of the common position, and amend the common position or confirm its rejection
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
simple majority to approve the joint text
majority of Parliament's component Members to reject the Council text

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 40(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the third package of liberalization measures in the air transport sector COM(91)0275¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 November 1993 on aviation relations with third countries²,
 - having regard to its opinion of 22 April 1994 on the amended proposal for a Council Decision on a consultation and authorization procedure for agreements concerning commercial aviation relations between Member States and third countries³,
 - having regard to its resolution of 14 February 1995 on the Commission communication entitled 'The way forward for civil aviation in Europe'⁴,
- A. whereas, pursuant to Articles 84 and 228 of the EC Treaty, the Community is responsible for regulating relations with third countries in the fields covered by Community legislation applicable to aviation,
- B. whereas it has taken numerous decisions against any American-style deregulation in the aviation sector,
- C. whereas common action is required in this area, and whereas it should be based on several general principles; reciprocity, non-discrimination, equivalence of advantages, fair competition, consumer protection, environmental protection, high security standards and respect for the economic interests of all the Member States,
1. Deplores the fact that some Union countries, without prior consultation with the Commission, have concluded bilateral 'open skies' agreements with the United States, agreements which infringe Community rules on a number of sensitive issues;
 2. Fears that the third package of measures concerning the establishment of the internal market in the field of civil aviation, which are to take effect from 1 April 1997, will be jeopardized by the cumulative effect of the various bilateral agreements concluded between Member States and the United States of America;

¹ OJ C 258, 4.10.1991.

² OJ C 329, 6.12.1993, p. 72.

³ OJ C 128, 9.5.1994, p. 512.

⁴ Minutes for the sitting of that date, part II.

3. Is convinced that the agreements proposed by the United States are neither in the economic interest of the European Union nor of its Member States, that they are fundamentally unbalanced to the advantage of American carriers and that they jeopardize the smooth functioning of the Community aviation market;
4. Insists that any bilateral agreement negotiated by a Member State or the Commission must be concluded on the basis of reciprocity;
5. Takes the view that bilateral agreements should cover areas such as the opening of cabotage rights to foreign airlines on the basis of reciprocity;
6. Calls on the Member States not to negotiate bilateral agreements which would grant rights to foreign airlines to which companies registered in their own country or elsewhere in the Union do not have access;
7. Calls on the Commission to clarify the measures it intends to take to prevent the agreements concluded being put into operation;
8. Recommends that the Member States interrupt their negotiations until the Council has adopted a common orientation in this matter;
9. Calls for a mandate to be given to the Commission for it to draw up negotiating directives with a view to the conclusion of an agreement on civil aviation with the United States of America, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Switzerland;
10. Takes the view that the conferring of powers on the Commission in the external policy sector entails prior agreement between the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament on the policy guidelines which must be followed in this sector;
11. Calls on the Council to give meticulous consideration to the draft negotiating mandate that the Commission is in the process of drawing up and that it will submit to it at the latest for its meeting in June 1995;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the Member States and the United States Administration.