

**ACI EUROPE**

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## Airports aligned with EP vote on air passenger rights

For immediate release

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**Brussels, 5 February 2014:** Earlier today, the European Parliament voted in favour of the revision of the current EU legislation on air passenger rights. In response, European airport trade body ACI EUROPE reiterated its support for more effective protection for passengers, as well as a better balance between their legitimate expectations and the constraints of the business models and operating conditions of both airlines and airports.

ACI EUROPE especially praised the leadership of **George Bach MEP (Luxembourg)** and called on Member States to respect the position of the European Parliament on a number of key issues. These include the prohibition of the 'one bag rule', whereby some airlines prevent passengers from taking a reasonable amount of personal belongings – including airport retail purchases - on board the aircraft unless they fit in their cabin bag. These also include the appointment of an airline representative at each airport where they operate to assist passengers when needed. These also relate to the recognition of the value of airline interlining agreements for regional connectivity.

Commenting on the one bag rule, **Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE** said *"The European Parliament has made it clear that it wants the 'one bag rule' to be banned because it is hurting the passenger experience. The mere fact that these airline practices are not applied consistently and are subject to regular changes does not offer an adequate protection to the travelling public. Fundamentally, passengers are entitled to full legal certainty and their choice should not be abusively restricted to in-flight sales."*

**ENDS**

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*ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International, the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 450 airports in 44 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming over 1.5 billion passengers, 18 million tonnes of freight and more than 20 million aircraft movements each year.*

**EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.**

Press release