



European Parliament, TRAN and IMCO committee

1040 Brussels
Belgique

By e-mail

Gent, 22.06.2020

Subject: 2017/0237 (COD) - RAIL PASSENGERS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Please reply to: Josef Schneider, josef.schneider@epf.eu

Dear MEPs,

The European Passengers' Federation brings together national and regional passenger associations from more than twenty European states. It seeks to represent passengers' interests at European level, working constructively with the transport industry and policy makers. We look forward to working with the European Community in advancing the interests of passengers, thereby contributing to modal shift, realisation of the Union's commitment to the Paris Climate Change goals and its emphasis on fair and reasonable consumer protection.

We are writing to you as we are very worried about the trilogue on Rail Passengers' Rights.

From the preparations in view of the third trilogue on 23 June 2020, we get the impression that the Council would like to achieve the following key points:

- Introduction of force majeure in case of compensation for delay and assistance to stranded passengers (articles 16(2), 17(8) and 18(2))

- Exemptions will remain; urban, suburban and regional trains can still be exempted, also if they're international (article 2(4))
- No obligation to offer a single through-contract for one journey with multiple operators; just the information must be improved (article 10a). So not much change compared to today. In practice this will mean a deterioration because more and more operators are emerging, and in future one journey will more often involve multiple operators
- The Council wants to reduce the role of independent ticket vendors and tour operators (article 10a(4))
- Some improvements for persons with disabilities or persons with reduced mobility but not as much as the Parliament wanted.
- Some improvements for bike transport, with mandatory spaces in new rolling stock

We are very disappointed, as we had seen the recast as an opportunity to make progress in at least four main points essential for passengers:

1. End of exemptions
2. Inclusion of contracted regional and suburban services in the scope of the regulation
3. Safeguarding through tickets (one journey = one contract of carriage, regardless of the number of tickets)
4. Deletion of force majeure

Based on this approach we can no longer see that the recast of rail passengers' rights can be evaluated as progress for passengers and citizens of Europe. EPF doesn't see how this proposal can fit in the Green Deal or in the coalition of the willing for the development of international rail passenger transport. It doesn't constitute a significant improvement for passengers. Just a small improvement in some areas, against considerable deterioration in other areas.

We are ready for any further consultation at any time.

Yours sincerely,



Josef Schneider, chairman