

Defend Europe's Gold Standard Air Passenger Rights: MEPs Must Stand Firm Against EC 261 Rollback

The Association of Passenger Rights Advocates (APRA), together with the organisations listed below, jointly call on Members of the European Parliament **to reject the Council's proposed revision of Regulation EC261/2004**.

The Council's proposal would erase more than 20 years of hard-won consumer protections. It seeks to introduce confusing and complex clauses which not only violate the European Treaties' obligations (Art. 169 TFEU), but also create confusion over settled CJEU case law which will trigger years of litigation as courts struggle with contradictory definitions.

We call on MEPs to **reject any compromise which weakens current passenger protection** and stand firm to **keep passenger rights simple yet strong**:

- **Maintain the 3-hour compensation threshold that has served travellers for decades.** Raising the threshold from 3 to 4 or 6 hours means longer flight delays, more complicated regulations, and 60% fewer passengers eligible for compensation.
- **Close legal loopholes rather than expand them.** Redefining "extraordinary circumstances" to include routine airline failures like technical issues, strikes, and crew sickness contradicts current EU case law.
- **Adjust the existing compensation levels in line with inflation.** The Council wants to slash compensation by up to 25% ignoring inflation and rising travel costs.
- **Refuse the 6-month claim deadline.** Such a short timeframe hinders justice for vulnerable travellers and ignores existing statutes of limitations.
- **Don't allow excessive hand luggage fees.** Only protecting personal items less than 15 cm wide undermines basic travel dignity.

As EU citizens face growing skepticism and disillusionment, now is not the time to weaken one of the Union's most tangible success stories. Air passenger rights are not a privilege; they are a promise. A promise that must be upheld.

We urge MEPs to stand their ground and reject any compromise that dilutes the rights of European travellers. The European Parliament must act as the guardian of consumer protection and legal certainty.

Protect what works. Defend EC 261.

For media inquiries or to support the [campaign](#), contact: secretariat@apra-eu.com.