

Recommendation for a decision and report

by the Committee on Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (15th Committee)

on the communication

– printed paper 17/8426 No. A.44 –

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on groundhandling services at Union airports and repealing Council Directive 96/67/EC COM(2011) 824 final; Council document 18008/11

A. Problem

The quality, efficiency, safety and security of groundhandling at German airports are of a high level by international comparison. The provision of groundhandling services is already structured competitively in Germany today. Increasing the number of third party providers would not lead to further improvements in quality but more likely jeopardize existing standards.

The high standards of quality, safety and security in groundhandling services in Germany can only be ensured if there is no unacceptable reduction in wage levels and social protection for the staff working in these areas. Cheaper groundhandling services by means of wage cuts or lower training standards or by an increase in fixed-term contracts must be rejected as an option.

The rules proposed in the draft regulation for the subcontracting of services as well as on the legal separation of groundhandling services and centralised infrastructure must also be rejected. Not only would they mean that the regulation would interfere with the entrepreneurial affairs of airport operators, they could also potentially mean unequal treatment and discrimination towards airport operators as service providers. It is precisely the airport operators, however, which currently ensure stable jobs are safeguarded and created to the benefit of the regions surrounding the airports.

The change in the legal framework from a directive to a regulation must also be viewed critically. If, indeed, any need for adjustment actually arises in the area of groundhandling services, a modification of the current directive with a set of guidelines, which would then be implemented by the member states, would suffice.

B. Solution

Adoption of a resolution in which the German Bundestag rejects the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on groundhandling services at Union airports and repealing Council Directive 96/67/EC (COM(2011) 824 final; Council document 18008/11) and in the event that a majority is not achieved for the rejection of the regulation proposal, calls on the Federal Government to work towards substantial improvements to the regulation proposal in the further negotiations at European level.

Unanimous adoption of a resolution.

C. Alternatives

None.

D. Costs

Were not discussed.

Recommendation for a decision

Being aware of the communication in printed paper 17/8426 No. A.44, the Bundestag is requested to adopt the following resolution in accordance with Article 23 (3) of the Basic Law:

- “1. The German Bundestag rejects the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on groundhandling services at Union airports and repealing the Council Directive 96/67/EC (COM(2011) 824 final; Council document 18008/11). If it is not foreseeably possible to achieve a majority to reject the proposed regulation, the German Bundestag calls on the Federal Government to work towards substantial improvements to the proposal for a regulation in the further negotiations at European level.
2. The quality, efficiency, safety and security of groundhandling at German airports are of a high level by international comparison. The provision of groundhandling services is already structured competitively in Germany today. Increasing the number of third party providers would not lead to further improvements in quality but more likely jeopardize existing standards.
3. The high standards of quality, safety and security in groundhandling services in Germany can only be ensured if there is no unacceptable reduction in wage levels and social protection for the staff working in these areas. Cheaper groundhandling services by means of wage cuts or lower training standards or by an increase in fixed-term contracts must be rejected as an option.
4. The rules proposed in the draft regulation for the subcontracting of services as well as the legal separation of groundhandling services and centralised infrastructure must also be rejected. Not only would they mean that the regulation would interfere with the entrepreneurial affairs of airport operators, they could also potentially mean unequal treatment and discrimination towards airport operators as service providers. It is precisely the airport operators, however, which currently ensure stable jobs are safeguarded and created to the benefit of the regions surrounding the airports.
5. The change in the legal framework from a directive to a regulation must also be viewed critically. If, indeed, any need for adjustment actually arises in the area of groundhandling services, a modification of the current directive with a set of guidelines, which would then be implemented by the member states, would suffice.”

Berlin, 8 February 2012

The Committee on Transport, Building and Urban Affairs

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