



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
Alliance des Démocrates et des Libéraux pour l'Europe

Press Release

PRESS & INFORMATION

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Aviation security Liberal's & Democrat's opposition to secret annexes vindicated by EU advocate general

The opinion of the Advocate General of the Court of Justice today in the case C-345/06 on access to documents brought by an Austrian citizen, Gottfried Heinrich, fully vindicates ALDE objections to the European Commission's decision in November 2006 to restrict air passenger hand luggage without publishing the list of what would be banned.

Apart from various liquids, cosmetics and medicines banned from aircraft hand luggage, Mr Heinrich was ordered to leave an airplane at Vienna's airport because he was carrying his tennis rackets in hand luggage. Not being aware that tennis rackets constituted a prohibited article, he brought a case to the Court of Justice as a breach of his rights since the relevant information was only contained in a secret annex to EC Regulation 622/2003.

Mr Heinrich had given evidence at an ALDE group hearing in May 2007 regarding his case which contributed to the ALDE public opposition to the secret nature of this annex, and indeed any EU law affecting citizens' rights. His evidence is available online on the ALDE group website:

[http://www.alde.eu/index.php?id=42&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=8482](http://www.alde.eu/index.php?id=42&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=8482)

Ignasi Guardans MEP (CiU, Catalunya, Spain) who organised the hearing and has led the group's opposition to the secret annex welcomed today's decision:

"Transparency is paramount for the EU legislature. The advocate general has completely vindicated our principled and reasoned opposition to the adoption of laws at EU level which are then kept secret. It is utterly illogical to produce a list of banned objects from cabin baggage yet not tell anyone what they are."

"I hope that the Court of Justice will ultimately confirm this recommendation in favour of the plaintiff and call on the Commission to revise its own decision by publishing immediately the contents of the annex to the Regulation on aviation security so that we all know what is permissible on board an aircraft and what is not."

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also consult: <http://www.alde.eu>