

Security Charges

Security is the responsibility of the State and should not be funded exclusively by airlines.

Security measures generally have been increased to meet the enhanced security measures required by new legislation. This has resulted in significant increases in security costs that have been passed on by airports to airlines through increased security charges. The lack of clear information on responsibility for costs, revenue and efficiency makes it difficult, however, to implement in a fair and transparent manner.

The European Commission position is very clear: "The protection of European citizens against terrorist attacks is essentially a State responsibility".

SITUATION

Security providers in most airports are not a part of the regular consultation process and airlines are often not involved in determining the requirements and costs of security services.

In addition, international decision makers are requiring airports to invest in security, fuelled by international and national media and public attention, without defining who will pay for the additional cost. Often this leads to individual interpretations of international agreements, laws and policies regarding charges.

Many governments expect aviation to pay for its own security, whereas the cost of security for other modes of transport and public areas is fully subsidised and paid for by governments (e.g. train stations, stadiums, public buildings).

IATA POSITION

- Security is the responsibility of the State¹ and should be funded by the State especially for activities such as counter terrorism activities and baseline policing that are over and above the level of security required at airports for normal business purposes.
- However, where security costs are incurred by an airport, these costs and the consequent charges should be split between all users on an equitable cost-related basis including a fair share to the airport itself.
- When the airport provides security through a third party, airlines should receive clear and timely information on the tender process and the resulting decision(s).
- Security standards should be harmonised on a global basis.

KEY ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE INTRODUCING A SECURITY CHARGE

- 1 Governments should assess and provide the most cost effective solution for additional security measures prior to implementation.
- 2 Provide airlines with adequate and transparent financial information.
- 3 Consult airlines on the extent of security measures provided at a given airport and on the level of security charges.
- 4 Airports and airlines should agree a fair share allocation of costs, to ensure that all users make a contribution towards security costs.

¹ ICAO Doc 9082/7 - paragraph 29