

**To: Andreas Carlson, Swedish minister for infrastructure**

CC: Focal point for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**2026-06-01**

**Subject: Strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities in the proposed EU regulation on enforcement of passenger rights**

On behalf of Funktionsrätt Sverige and the European Disability Forum we are contacting you regarding the proposed [EU regulation on enforcement of passenger rights](#) - 2023/0437 (COD).

The ongoing negotiations represent a unique opportunity to address existing gaps in EU legislation and to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully enjoy their right to freedom of movement, equal access to transport and non-discrimination.

Despite the progress achieved during the latest triilogue discussions, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU still need to reach an agreement on key provisions concerning passengers with disabilities. In particular, this concerns the provisions on free travel for an accompanying person when required by the air carrier for safety reasons, as well as the publication of disability-related data through the Service Quality Standards.

While the European Parliament fully supports the European Commission's original proposal, we are aware that, [based on its negotiating mandate](#), the Council of the EU intends to weaken these important provisions by:

- Requiring the accompanying person to still pay air travel taxes and charges.
- Removing the obligation for transport operators and infrastructure managers to provide relevant disability-data through the Service Quality Standards.

If adopted in this form, these proposals would be unacceptable for persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

## Free-of-charge ticket for the accompanying person in air transport:

We fully support the European Parliament in their proposal to provide a free-of-charge ticket when the passenger with disability or reduced mobility is required to travel with an accompanying person for safety reasons<sup>1</sup>. Among others, we would like to recall the following:

- This provision is not new, it already exists in other EU passenger rights regulations and in the United States Air Carrier Access Act.
- Regulation 1107/2006 does not specify the exact circumstances in which an accompanying person may be required, giving air carriers broad discretion in determining these conditions<sup>2</sup>, which often discriminate against passengers with disabilities and change between carriers.
- Even if the accompanying person is exempt from paying the airfare, the remaining costs (i.e taxes and charges) are still substantial. In some instances, they can represent half of the total price of a ticket<sup>3</sup>.

## Service Quality Standards:

We fully support the European Parliament in their proposal to require transport operators and terminal managers to collect and publish information on the assistance provided to persons with disabilities through Service Quality Standards<sup>4</sup>. We also support the Parliament's proposals to extend this obligation to Airports. Among others, we would like to recall the following:

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<sup>1</sup> This provision is also part of the European Commission's original 2023 proposal.

<sup>2</sup> The [European Disability Forum 9<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Report on Air Travel](#) (2025) shows how certain EU carriers impose accompanying persons based on considerations that have nothing to do with safety. This includes comfort considerations (being able to use the toilet or eat independently) or specific disabilities (blind, deaf or people traveling with wheelchair).

<sup>3</sup> For example, if a flight from Barcelona to Brussels costs 268 EUR, 113 EUR are taxes and charges.

<sup>4</sup>This provision is also part of the European Commission's original proposal.

- This provision is essential to address the current lack of data regarding the type of assistance provided to persons with disabilities as well as the total number and nature of related complaints.
- This measure is not new, [it already exists in the United States](#) (US). Moreover, EU carriers operating flights to the US are already required to provide such data.
- This measure benefits everyone: consumers will be able to choose the most inclusive transport services, transport operators will be encouraged to improve their performance, and public authorities will have relevant data at hand to support their enforcement actions.

We call on you, as a minister for infrastructure and transport, to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Council of the EU supports the European Parliament proposals outlined in this letter and adopts a regulation that upholds the rights of persons with disabilities.

Our organisations remain at your disposal for further discussion on these proposals, and any disability-related issues.

Yours sincerely



Nicklas Mårtensson

President The Swedish Disability Rights Federation

Funktionsrätt Sverige