

Directive 2009/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on airport charges

Annual Report 2016

I Subject matter

Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No.540 (Adopted 5 July 2011) “Procedures for the Determination and Changing of Airport Charges” contains legal norms arising from Directive 2009/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on airport charges.

The requirements of this Regulation sets common principles for the levying of airport charges:

- ensure greater transparency on how airport charges are calculated;
- ensure that airports do not discriminate among airlines in the application of airport charges;
- ensure regular mandatory consultation between airports and airlines;
- establish an independent supervisory authority tasked with settling disputes between airports and airlines on the level of airport charges and overseeing the correct application of other measures to comply with requirements.

II Qualifying airports, an airport charges subject to the regulation

Regulation applies to airports where the number of passengers serviced during a year exceeds five million, or, if there are no such airports, regulation applies to the airport with the largest number of passengers. Taking into account specified conditions, currently only “Riga” International Airport is subject to the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No.540 “Procedures for the Determination and Changing of Airport Charges”. The following airport charges are subject to the obligations in the Regulation:

- taking-off and landing of aircraft;
- parking of an aircraft in the operative parking place for aircraft for a time during which ground handling of aircraft is carried out before or after a flight;

- passenger services, indicating the service covered by the charge.

III Independent supervisory authority, the main tasks under regulation

According to the requirements specified in this Regulation, “Riga” International Airport authority has the obligation to organize consultations with airport users at least once a year, ensuring that consultation procedures are followed, including timeline, suitable degree of interaction, exchange of information. In addition to this, Regulation establishes remedy procedures in cases if after consultation between the airport "Rīga" Administration and the airport users agreement is not reached.

In the context of the above mentioned Regulation independent supervisory authority is Civil Aviation Agency. Its tasks are the following:

- to publish on its Internet home page a list of airports of the Republic of Latvia to which the requirements of this Regulation apply;
- in case of receiving an application with complaint or objection from “Riga” International Airport authority or airport user representatives, Civil Aviation Agency has a duty to provide an opinion regarding the conformity of the airport activities with effective competition in relation to the uncoordinated matters;
- when publishing public annual report, Civil Aviation Agency should include a description of the activities specified in the Regulation.

IV Civil Aviation Agency`s activities performed in 2016

In 2016 the Civil Aviation Agency, as an independent supervisory authority carried out the following activities:

- Considered one air carrier's complaint and gave an opinion.
- Participated in the Thessaloniki Forum of Airport Charges Regulators established by the European Commission.

State Agency “Civil Aviation Agency”

January 2017