

View this e-mail in your [web browser](#)



Urgent Call for Alternatives to Large Electronic Restrictions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 March 2017

No: 18

Montreal - The International Air Transport Association (IATA) called on governments to urgently find alternatives to recently announced measures by the United States and the United Kingdom to restrict the carry-on of large electronic items on certain flights departing the Middle East and North Africa.

The Case for Alternative Measures

"The current measures are not an acceptable long-term solution to whatever threat they are trying to mitigate. Even in the short term it is difficult to understand their effectiveness. And the commercial distortions they create are severe. We call on governments to work with the industry to find a way to keep flying secure without separating passengers from their personal electronics," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO.

De Juniac made this demand in a [speech to the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations](#) in which he highlighted the need to maintain public confidence in the security of the global aviation industry which safely and security operates an average 100,000 flights a day.

"With the measures now in place, our passengers and member airlines are asking valid questions. Why don't the US and the UK have a common list of airports? How can laptops be secure in the cabin on some flights and not others, including flights departing from the same airport? And surely there must be a way to screen electronic equipment effectively? The current situation is not acceptable and will not maintain the all-important confidence of the industry or of travelers. We must find a better way. And Governments must act quickly," said de Juniac.

IATA Calls for Better Coordination and Information Sharing

IATA also expressed frustration at the process used by governments to put in place the security measures which was woefully lacking. "The industry came together quickly to implement the new requirements. That was a challenge because there was no prior consultation and little coordination by governments," said de Juniac.

IATA has long called for better information sharing and coordination on security measures among governments and with the industry.

"While governments have the primary responsibility for security, we share the priority of keeping passengers, crew and aircraft secure. To do that effectively intelligence is king. And it needs to be shared amongst governments and with the industry. It's the only way to stop terrorists before they get near an airport, let alone aircraft," de Juniac.

Moreover, cooperation between industry and governments yields a better result. "Airlines don't want access to state secrets. But if airlines understand the outcome governments want, they can help with the operational experience to deliver that result effectively and efficiently," said de Juniac.

International Cooperation

Challenges to aviation security were highlighted in Resolution 2309 of the UN Security Council which tasked the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to develop a Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP). "The need for such a plan has been made very clear by wide gaps in the measures taken by governments in recent days. States need to lend their full support to ICAO in developing GASeP quickly. And even before that can be achieved, there is an early opportunity to make a real improvement to international cooperation on security. In May ICAO member states will consider amendments to Annex 17 of the Chicago convention that would require information sharing. The security experience of recent years should compel States to support this," said de Juniac.

[Read Alexandre de Juniac's speech](#)

For more information, please contact:

Corporate Communications

Tel: +41 22 770 2967

Email: corpcomms@iata.org

Notes for Editors:

- IATA (International Air Transport Association) represents some 265 airlines comprising 83% of global air traffic.
- You can follow us at <http://twitter.com/iata2press> for news specially catered for the media.

International Air Transport Association

800 Place Victoria, P.O. Box 113 Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4Z 1M1.

[About Us](#) | [Programs](#) | [Policy](#) | [Publications](#) | [Services](#) | [Training](#) | [Events](#) | [Pressroom](#)

IMPORTANT PRIVACY INFORMATION: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) does not sell or rent your email address to any third party. You received this email message due to your membership, participation or interest in IATA.

IATA sends various advertisements, promotions and special announcements regarding products and services that we feel