



## EUROPE AIR SPORTS

The Association representing European National Aero Clubs and Air Sports Organizations in Regulatory Matters with European Authorities and Institutions.

Secretariat:  
Dinkellaan 8, 2105VL Heemstede,  
The Netherlands

tel: +31 23 5470205  
e-mail: [europe-airsports@wxs.nl](mailto:europe-airsports@wxs.nl)  
website: [www.europe-airsports.fai.org](http://www.europe-airsports.fai.org)

---

S9031, 26 March 2009

### **European Parliament votes to exclude aerodromes mainly used for sports and recreational flying from common European rules**

Only 9 months after the Commission published its proposal for a regulation to extend the competencies of EASA to aerodromes, air traffic management and air navigation services, the European Parliament adopted on 25 March a legislative resolution significantly reducing the scope of the regulation as far as aerodromes are concerned.

After intensive interaction with the Commission, Parliament and the Council in the course of the EU's law-making procedure (co-decision), Europe Air Sports is particularly pleased that the European decision-makers have listened to our good arguments and have recognised that it would be disproportionate to regulate aerodromes mainly used for sports and recreational flying at the European level.

According to the finally agreed text common European rules will only apply to those aerodromes, open to public use, "*which serve commercial air transport and where operations using instrument approach or departure procedures are provided ... and have a paved runway of 800 metres or above*" (Article 3a). Furthermore any individual Member State may, by way of derogation, exempt any particular aerodrome, which "*handles no more than 10 000 passengers*" and "*or more than 850 cargo movements per year*" (Article 3b).

The Commission had in its proposal already departed from EASA's opinion that all aerodromes open to public use should be regulated at the European level. However, the Commission's idea to regulate all aerodromes, open to public use "*which can serve traffic conducted in accordance with the instrument flight rules or aircraft with a maximum take-off mass of 2730 kg*" would still have exposed many aerodromes used by sports and recreational aviation to the European rules. At the same time the proposed wording would have generated – in many cases - a situation of legal uncertainty, in which it would have been uncertain whether an aerodrome would be regulated at European or national level.

Europe Air Sports takes the view that the text finally adopted by the European Parliament is both proportionate and clear and it is therefore fully supported.

A document containing on page 50 a provisional version of the adopted text can be obtained by [clicking here](#).

Europe Air Sports wishes to express its appreciation for the valuable support of the Associate Director of ADS Insight, Timo Schubert.