



## ARC POSITION STATEMENT

on the

*Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a  
Community framework for noise classification of civil subsonic aircraft for the  
purposes of calculating noise charges, COM (2001) 74*

The Airport Regions Conference (ARC) is an association of local and of regional authorities hosting a major European international airport within their territory. ARC brings together a wide range of expertise at the interface of air transport and local and regional authorities. ARC represents 26 regions throughout Europe hosting 37 major international airports.

The European Commission has observed that European airports show great variety in noise charge systems, and amongst the airports in the member regions of ARC noise charge systems are indeed different. They vary from very advanced systems to more relaxed systems. Sometimes, there is no noise charge system in place. The Directive is proposing a framework for harmonisation for the calculation of noise charges. ARC believes it is good to have minimum standards for noise charging for all major airports. However, ARC believes the danger is that the proposed calculation system will result in lower standards for noise impact. This will downgrade the more advanced systems that exist at some airports which will mean that populations around these airports will be more affected by noise.

ARC therefore believes that apart from the minimum requirements, this Directive should not affect the quality of existing noise calculation system that are more advanced than the system the Commission is proposing. Therefore we claim that existing, alternative systems of noise charges at airports should be retained, provided that they go further and are more advanced, than the system provided for in the Directive. ARC believes the existence of well functioning current advanced systems shows that the aim of reducing environmental noise pollution could also be achieved by agreed standards democratically approved locally.

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