

Comments on proposed regulations published in Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 158, Number 51: Regulations Amending the Air Passenger Protection Regulations

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Provision of Information

I am a Canadian living in Europe, and I regularly fly transatlantic between Europe and Canada. We have had EU261/UK261 for two decades, and when I've made compensation claims under these regulations I've not had a quibble (even from low-cost carriers like Ryanair). On the other hand, I have had many quibbles with Canadian airlines.

The regulations currently in place in Canada strongly disincentivise me to choose a Canadian airline for my transatlantic journeys. When I search for flights between Europe and Canada, I explicitly exclude all Canadian airlines from my search, and the poor Canadian regulations are the reason for this. I always opt for a European airline, even if the ticket price is more expensive and even if the itinerary is a connection, because I know that I am covered in the event that something goes wrong, and that I would not have to fight for the compensation that I am due.

The fact that this list of exceptional circumstances is comparable to EU261 and UK261 will, if enacted, allow me not only to consider using Canadian airlines for my transatlantic travel, but also stop encouraging Canadians not to use Canadian airlines for similar trips.

While airlines are complaining about the additional costs that this would place on them, I believe they would also benefit from no longer being at a competitive disadvantage with respect to these air passenger regulations.
