

checks to detect and prevent threats to the national security and public policy of the Contracting Parties. Such checks also cover objects in the possession of persons crossing the border and should be carried out by each Contracting Party in accordance with its legislation, in particular as regards searches.

Racial discrimination is contrary to fundamental rights. It is the responsibility of the Member States to ensure that their officials and agents carry out their duties without acting in a racist manner, for example by subjecting people to unwarranted and humiliating searches, and respect the fundamental rights enshrined in the Treaty on European Union as general principles of Community law and reiterated in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The disinfecting of aircraft is a matter of national legislation and applied according to individual companies' policy. The European Commission has no competence on this matter. The Commission has no knowledge of other complaints received regarding specific legroom and the age of planes used to operate routes from Europe to Africa. The European Commission has no competence in this field as this relates to individual company policy.

The Commission takes note of the overbooking complaint for flights returning from the African continent and flying to Europe; however, no Community regulation applies to those flights as the departure takes place in a third country. The Commission is well aware of the overbooking practices of air carriers in general.

The Commission has no competence as regards the high fares charged by European airlines for flights to third countries in general, and African countries in particular. The structure of fares applied to international routes is determined by three main factors : the economic aspects of the relevant route (air traffic density, frequency of service, type of aircraft, type of flight (non-stop or other) etc.), the amount of competition in the market, and the fare system prescribed in the bilateral agreements governing air services between Member States and third countries, which generally provide for fares to be fixed by agreement between the two governments concerned'.