

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Committee on Petitions

19 March 2004

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Petition L-42/2002 by Bedford Nwabueze Umez (American), bearing 1230 signatures, on the maltreatment of Africans by European airlines

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner writes that Africans are systematically maltreated and disadvantaged on flights by European airlines. He says that the fares charged by European airlines on African routes are disproportionately expensive, that European airlines' staff are rude to Africans, that anti-mosquito sprays and pesticides are sprayed on the passenger areas of European planes before leaving Africa for Europe, sometimes even while African passengers are seated, that flights to and from Africa are generally overbooked, and that customs officials at European airports subject African passengers to unwarranted and humiliating searches. He therefore calls on the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the Organisation of American States, the International Aviation Organisation, the Federal Aviation Administration and the European Union to investigate maltreatment of Africans by the European airlines, to immediately remedy these abuses of human rights.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 21 February 2003. Information requested from Commission under Rule 175(4).

3. Commission reply, received on 4 March 2004

'Article 6 of the Convention applying the Schengen Agreement of 14 June 1985 stipulates that checks on persons crossing external borders must be conducted 'in accordance with uniform principles, within the scope of national powers and national legislation'. One such uniform principle is that checks on third-country nationals include not only the verification of travel documents and of the other conditions governing entry, residence, work and exit but also