

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

President Barroso  
The European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
B1049 Brussels  
Belgium

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Dear President,

It is being reported here in the UK that representatives from the airline industry met with you yesterday to call for the temporary suspension of the EU Directive on air passenger rights (Regulation 261/2004). This offers vital protection to the many travellers caught up in delays as a result of the volcanic ash clouds from Iceland. I am shocked that the airline industries would consider such a cynical move and urge you to uphold European law, as well as issue an immediate warning to those airlines already refusing to meet reasonable accommodation and refreshment expenses for passengers.

The European Commission's representation here in the UK has been helpful in advising passengers about their rights (see [http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/press/frontpage/100416\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/press/frontpage/100416_en.htm)) and I very much hope that this approach will be mirrored across the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.

Cc Commissioner Kallas