Why the extra "free" bag just doesn't fly



Let's unpack what's really inside the European Parliament's "free" cabin bag





1 More expensive airfare

A mandatory extra bag raises basic fares for everyone – even for those who don't want a second bag.



Most recent flyers prefer a lower

28% already travel

with just one small bag under the seat1

2 More boarding delays

Aircraft cabins simply can't fit everyone's extra bag.

A typical 190-seat plane fits about

90 large cabin bags

meaning more waiting to load excess bags in the hold.

Only 20% of passengers are willing to wait longer for an extra 'free' bag¹

3 Heavier flights = higher emissions



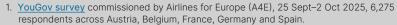






All A4E airlines now apply an EU-wide standard for the personal bags ($40 \times 30 \times 15$ cm) already included in every basic fare. This is the minimum a passenger can expect to bring on board, and many airlines have larger allowances.





2. Financial Times, "EU's extra free cabin bag will weigh on airline passengers", 19 July 2025.





at a4e.eu