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Onderwerp: EU aviation hygiene plan doesn't block middle seats

EU aviation hygiene plan doesn't block middle seats

-- By Mari Eccles
 7/23/20, 6:50 PM CET | [View in your browser](#)

"Scientific evidence" means there's no need to leave middle seats on planes free, German Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer said today while unveiling the German Council presidency's [plan](#) to introduce uniform hygiene measures for aircraft and airports.

The measures include masks for passengers over 6 years old, social distancing at airports during check-in and fresh air quotas on planes.

But the presidency stopped short of forcing airlines to leave middle seats free. Scheuer [said](#) the effectiveness of air ventilation systems in aircraft, coupled with mandatory masks, mean such a measure is "not necessary."

He said his team sought advice from experts at the Robert Koch Institute on the issue. "It's a discussion we had and based on scientific evidence, we decided against it," he told reporters at an aviation summit press conference.

National ministers said creating uniform rules across Europe would help restore air passengers' confidence. However, setting such standards "will cost a lot of money," Scheuer said.

"We'll have to figure out who will pay for what at the airports, what fees will we charge and so on and so forth. But we as transport politicians are always willing to help because we want to allow mobility even in difficult times," he said.

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