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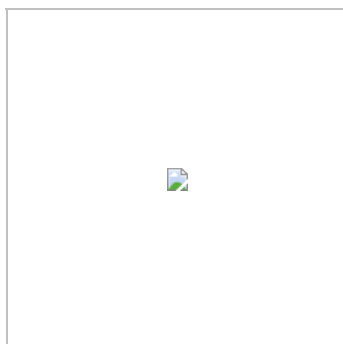
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## Ryanair win court case over boarding pass printout charges

**Barcelona courts rule that passengers are sufficiently informed by the company**



The courts in Barcelona have given the green light to Ryanair's policy of charging 40 euros to those passengers who fail to check in online and print out their boarding passes before reaching the airport.

The charge is made when airline staff are obliged to print the passes out and check passengers in at the airport, and has raised the heckles of many of those affected, but the court's decision recognizes that this aspect of Ryanair's low-cost management policy is valid. The method, according to the judgement, eases check-in procedures and saves the airline money by

avoiding the need to have an office and printing facilities, as well as reducing staffing requirements. The decision will not be appealed against, as the amount in dispute was only 285.50 euros.

This judgement reverses an earlier decision in a lower court, which had declared Ryanair's airport check-in charge illegal, because the appeal court has decided that passengers are sufficiently well informed of the charges when they make their bookings. The charge is deemed to be a part of the contract made between airline and individual, and the individual's rights are not infringed, according to the judgement.

The judgement also finds that the amount of 40 euros is sufficient to motivate the passengers to fulfil their obligations under the contract, without being excessive.

The appeal was upheld by the court, but not unanimously, one of the magistrates saying that the airline should be obliged to supply boarding passes and the surcharge levied is disproportionately high. On occasions the charge is more expensive than the flight, and the magistrate in question says that there is no evidence to show that the amount of 40 euros is a fair reflection of the cost to the airline of checking customers in at the airport.

According to Ryanair, fewer than 1% of its passengers now fail to comply with the requirement to turn up at the airport with their boarding passes already printed. Of course airline spokesmen were happy with the decision, but a similar case is still to be tried in the courts of Madrid in the near future.

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