

Pilots warn over ‘dangerous’ rules

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NEW European pilot fatigue proposals are “a danger to public safety”, pilots’ union Balpa has warned.

The regulations could allow pilots to land their aircraft 22 hours after they had woken for the day, Balpa said.

The organisation said it was worried that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) appeared to be supporting the proposals.

Balpa highlighted its concerns yesterday at a Commons transport committee hearing into flight time limitations. Airlines and the CAA also gave evidence to MPs.

Before the meeting, Balpa general secretary Jim McAuslan said: “Compared to the UK’s domestic rules, the EU proposals would see pilots being able to fly further – as far as California – with no back-up crew and allow pilots to do up to seven early starts in a row, which is desperately fatiguing.”

Aviation minister Theresa Villiers told MPs there would be “significant safety gains for UK passengers” from the European proposals.