



EASA allows airlines to expand use of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) in flight*

More information: easa.europa.eu/ped

Gadget express

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EXCLUSIVE: Interview with DeVice

What has EASA changed for you?

EASA has made it possible for airlines to allow having me switched on during the whole flight! Ultimately airlines will be able to offer 'gate-to-gate' experience. That means just like all passengers, I get to witness the flight from the departure gate to the arrival gate.

Why this change, was there a problem before?

Yes, darkness was the problem! I was switched off and stowed in a seat pocket or an overhead bin during all 'critical' phases of flight. I had never heard a safety briefing, as I was always switched off. I hope, if the time ever comes, they will know what to do and not look at me for the information.

How was your first landing?

Scary at first, but then I played a song and forgot all about it.

So how has your flying experience changed?

If an airline decides to allow it, I can be left switched on, and transmitting inside aircraft certified as 'PED tolerant'. If the airline offers WiFi service, I can also remain connected to the internet. It is just like travelling in any other mean of transport, like being on a train! Every PED is excited, as during these flights, e-books or tablets can be left 'on' to experience the take-off and landing.

From which date does this change apply?

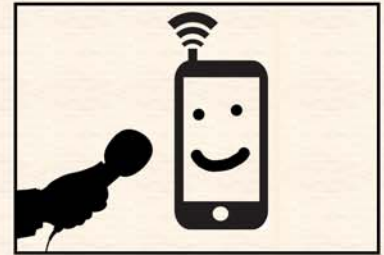
Depends on which situation you are talking about. For some months already, PEDs that can control their transmission and go to 'flight mode' (airplane mode), can be allowed by any European airline to be left switched on, but in flight/airplane mode (!), throughout the flight. That can happen only IF the airline decides to allow this. It is in their discretion to do so. No additional assessment or certification of the aircraft is required in this case.

Of course, cabin crew can at any time instruct passengers to switch PEDs off. Safety is everyone's responsibility, so I don't mind when people do that to PEDs.

If the aircraft is certified as 'tolerant' [sic] to transmitting PEDs then the airline may allow any/all electronics to be left on. Hopefully when passengers do that, there is some WiFi connection offered for us to keep our connections on. Otherwise we are left switched 'on'... but left alone to drain our batteries.

And Mobile phones?

Everyone keeps asking this question! Maybe because they believe their voice on the phone sounds better at 35,000 feet than on the ground ... believe me it doesn't. Yes, from a safety assessment perspective IF the aircraft is cer-



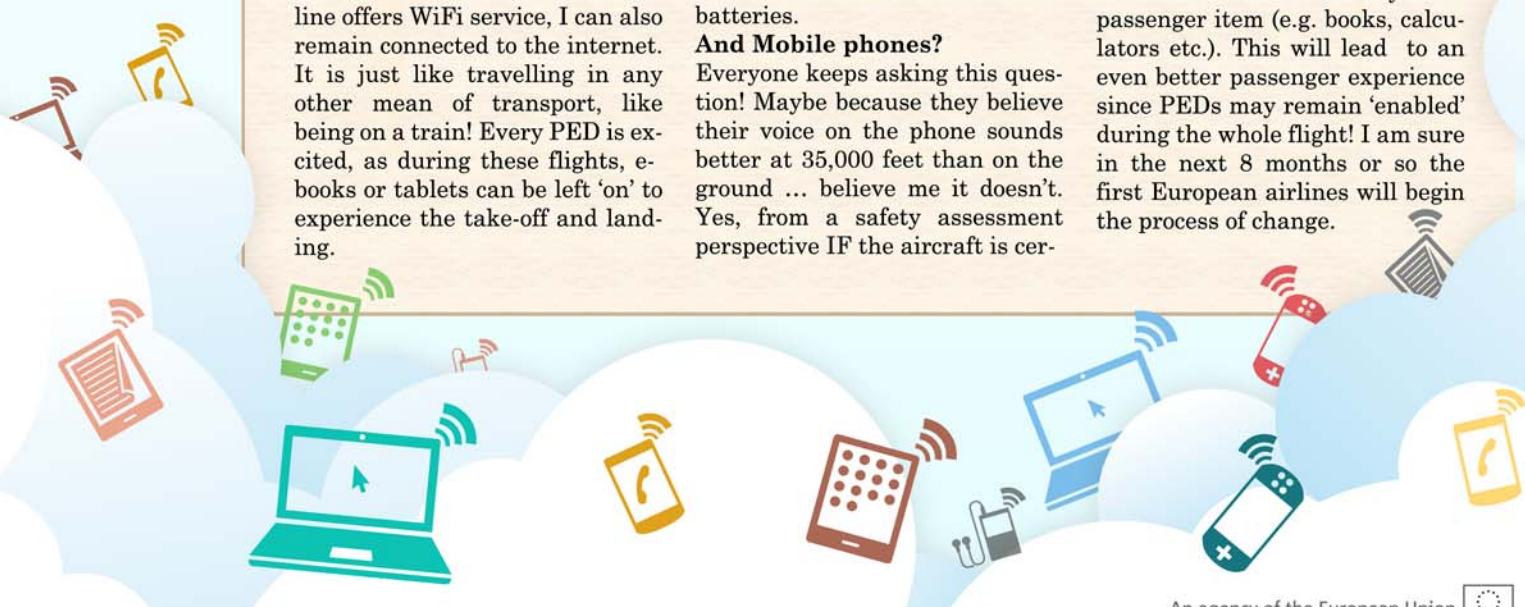
tified and IF it is properly equipped to connect those mobile phones, then phone calls are technically possible.

'Technically'... What do you mean by this?

It is up to the airline to decide to offer telecoms services and keep some of us busy during the flight. As I said before, the airline will need to equip the aircraft, but also make other arrangements and make a business case out of it. In addition, don't forget, that even if all these are in place and working, airline crew always have the final word on what you can and cannot do in the aircraft.

What does the future hold for you?

EASA has enabled the equal treatment of PEDs with any other passenger item (e.g. books, calculators etc.). This will lead to an even better passenger experience since PEDs may remain 'enabled' during the whole flight! I am sure in the next 8 months or so the first European airlines will begin the process of change.



* It is to the discretion of every European airline to decide to expand the use of PEDs. The airline will first need to go through a process to ensure there is no safety effect from using the PEDs. Regardless of airline policy, cabin or flight crew can instruct passengers at any time on-board the aircraft to switch-off all electronic devices. Passengers must always follow crew instructions as safety is everyone's responsibility.