

Statement of Flughafen Köln/Bonn GmbH on the judgement of the High Court of Administration in Münster

Michael Garvens, Chairman of the Management Board of Cologne Bonn Airport:

“This is a success right down the line. The court has reaffirmed us in our legal concept and confirmed that the extension of our current night flight regulation until 2030 was indeed legal.

The court also states that, due to a legal fiction in existence since 1999, Cologne/Bonn Airport is to be handled as if a planning approval decision had been made in its favour. Therefore, any claims to an injunction or restriction of operation are categorically excluded. Any claims for noise protection are limited to passive noise reduction measures, such as constructive sound insulation. A right to operational restrictions can only be taken into consideration if the passive noise reduction measures are not sufficient to respond to dangers for rights protected by the German Basic law. It cannot be assumed that these very strict criteria are in place.

So, we are all the more optimistic that this judgement will also have a positive effect on the current discussion on the introduction of a partial night flight ban for passenger aircraft, as aspired by the State Government.

After all the setbacks air traffic has had to accept in the past months, we are very pleased about this positive judgement.”