

WELCOME to Check Reality Check

Oh yeah,

We are stunned by the tightening security measures everywhere and especially at airports. There's an astonishing impression of overrepresentation through a gigantic contingent of security personnel. It provokes in us, or better, it shall provoke in us some fear and an impression of security measures helping to prevent any form of attack. Additionally, the huge quantity of any kind of security evokes the sense of weakness which generates a trust in security measures without asking for its aim, without asking for its need of existence.

Maybe even with a question, there wouldn't be an answer.

Here, you are able to share some airport absurdity you detected or to mention theory gaps you have concluded. You have the possibility to show your struggle with the xrays (also struggles with alphas are welcome) and to document your checkpoint feelings.

We kindly ask you to recheck your reality.

Welcome on board.

GOING TO THE AIRPORT

It's a fake.

The image of freedom of movement or the suggestion of the world becoming smaller because

of the so-called ease of transportation is a fake. It only exists for a small group of people - white, rich, male and without any handicap. Sometimes also having a certain religion keeps you from crossing a checkpoint.

To reach the airport you often cross bare fields and pure nature only interrupted by immense concrete highways and flyovers. You arrive in the middle of nowhere, heading to the middle of nowhere. Cities, by means of easy transportation and communication, converge in form, style, meaning, use.

They become the same.

Voyaging loses sense.

So, just another chapter in the book of global equalization is the delusion of security.

CHECK-IN

Your Ticket, Passport, Visa - please. Hand-luggage only?

When you want to check-in for your business trip, your holidays or for any flight, you have to have handy all those uncountable papers. Next to an assumedly expensive ticket where you had to give your name and birth date when buying, you need a passport.

If you are not a privileged EU citizen, or an even more privileged diplomat, you'll also need a visa most of the time. Sometimes you need an invitation, too, or you need to complete an anti-terror questionnaire. And who never thought of committing a terrorist act before? Or: have you been involved in a genocide? How dare you answer with yes?

From checking your dates through your credit card details while getting a ticket online it's a constant recheck of you as a valid and solvent traveller.

Is it really you? Are you sure yourself?

Over and over again you need to show your passport, ID, driver's license, health immunization form, visa, an invitation, some credit cards - it's all about you and it isn't.

People are losing their identity in the gambling of global security synchronization. They, or we, become a mass of undefined supposed terrorists. For the purposes of personal identification and to control the flow of people, visa politics have been tightened considerably over the last few years. Biometric data, health tests, special photos, finger prints, information on chips were produced and up to date are even mostly requested.

Obtaining a visa is challenging for those who do not have the means of a wealthy Western European, with plenty of time. To enter the European Union for a longer period you have to conform to the agenda of the country's immigration law - even if you don't want to immigrate. Additionally you have to exhibit a rich health insurance and a full bank account. The decision concerning your request is taken with arbitrariness. If your application is declined you won't learn about the reasons why, just that you might not fit into the interests of security and control of the chosen country. Instead, being one of the privileged means also being able to cross borders without any problems.

So, please, proceed to gate B52.

HAND-LUGGAGE

There are regulations, rules, restrictions, allowances and examinations on everyone's hand-luggage. And there are changes. Over and over again.

Weapons and radioactive materials are forbidden.

Baby milk is finally allowed but the quantity of other liquids is restricted.

They should be packed in a quart-size, zip-top clear plastic bag (if you speak it fast it sounds like an old train...) and alcohol, gels and foodstuffs are not to be taken at all.

And then you go there, frightened that you may have forgotten your billiard cue or your collection of those cool Chinese fireworks in the bag and then - nothing.

They just let you pass, no one seems to look at the x-rays-screen.

And if someone looks you will only receive a comment like: 'uh, I realized you care for your beauty'.

Don't be blind on the other eye. Screening, checking, sniffing, taking away any pushpin, securing your deodorant, which might be inflammable and which might be sold in a shop right after the checkpoint - that's also possible and maybe even more probable.

CHECKPOINT

The good times have just begun.

You lose your belt, you undress your jacket, you slip out of your shoes, fumble rings, coins, mobiles out of your pockets, put them into hard plastic baskets.

Then you pass a machine causing in the long run at least some chromosomal damage and in the short run humiliating you by peeping because of your underwire bra. And then, returned to your barbarian identity, unnamed personnel are hitting on you.

It's all for the sake of security. Of course.

Are there ever persons not passing this threshold?

And what about the not-scanned suitcases - aren't they blowing your mind?

DUTYFREE

It's showtime.

Those scanning controls, being an unsuccessful theater of power, testified in the case of the shoe bomber, are one side. The other side is the absurdity of giving away fluids, lighters (not matches!), manicure sets and so forth. Immediately after passing this security check, handing over your drinks, creams and sprays, you just head to your friendly duty free shop. There you may buy some new booze, a lighter (or the matches you forgot at home), rip off a frazzle of your t-shirt and throw the first Molotov cocktail. Or, you get a bunch of Swiss army knives, traditional style, taking one hostage after the other and pave your way to the control tower.

If not doing so, you might think about the quantity of security garbage accumulating each day - bearing in mind the costs of disposal.

At Frankfurt's International Airport (Germany), an average of 3 tons of fluids is collected every day, due to the new EU -"security" regulations. In New York an average of 22,000 lighters was confiscated by screeners every day. It costs about \$4 million a year to compensate this waste disposal.

ON THE AIRPLANE

Is it a goal?

At the gate you are looking around for strange guys with bad faces or assumed Muslim clothes, when you see that they are in your airplane, an automatic thought has already triggered in your mind, before any rational filters can stop it.

After performing several of such acts, the mind is out of control and obviously you are really looking for terrorists around you or, in any case, you are waiting for terrorism to happen. Apart from the panic of claustrophobic feelings, children's cries, turbulences and paradoxically relaxing music, every time someone gets up from their seat you cringe in fear.

How do people get terrorized by which reality?

Which reality do you choose to participate in?