



Newspaper article Passive form



Plane forced to land after drunk woman tries to open door

Robin Henry

A plane was forced to make an emergency landing in Frankfurt after a drunk British woman attempted to open the door in mid-flight.

German police arrested two women aged 26 and 27 after one of them tried to force an exit open "to get some fresh air" on the XL flight from the Greek Island Kos to Manchester airport.

The 26-year-old woman is reported to have repeatedly tried to strike a flight attendant with a vodka bottle she had carried with her on the plane after the crew refused to serve the pair any more alcohol.

She then tried, unsuccessfully, to unlatch the nearby cabin door while the plane was flying at an altitude of around 10,000metres.

Security staff on board had to restrain the women, while the pilot notified air traffic control at Frankfurt City Airport that they would need to be cleared for an emergency landing .

After touching down at 4.45pm on Wednesday the women were escorted off the plane and taken to the airport police station.

Chief Inspector Joachim Ledderer of Frankfurt Police said that both woman were visibly drunk.

"I don't know if they'd managed to get that drunk on the flight or if they had been drinking before they left Greece. One of them was obviously not feeling well and wanted to open to door to get some fresh air. The crew and other passengers were understandably very worried by her behaviour and they had to land the plane.

"We took them to the police station and we were going to issue the woman with a fine but she had no money. We decided it was best to release them and they went back to Britain on a different flight."

The women face charges of grievous bodily harm and violating air traffic regulations. The plane later flew on to Manchester with a two-hour delay.

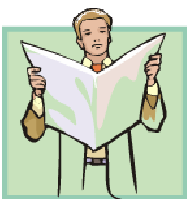
A spokeswoman for XL Airways confirmed they were considering legal action against the women .

She said : "We had two disruptive passengers and we suspected one of them of smoking in the toilet, and we also suspected that they were drinking their own alcohol."

"We refused to serve them any alcohol from the bar and things escalated.

"Their language was totally unacceptable, as was their behaviour. They were very abusive and threatening ."

She added : "We won't tolerate this sort of behaviour. The cabin crew did an excellent job and were very professional."



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