

UK judge rejects Qatar's request in plane dispute with Airbus

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London : A British judge rejected Qatar Airways' request to force Airbus to keep building A321neo aircraft for the Gulf carrier. This comes as a setback to the airline amid a wider airplane dispute that has triggered a major falling out in United Kingdom courts.

April 26's decision means one of the largest plane manufacturer in the world Airbus is free to market the in-demand aircraft to other airlines while the two sides pursue a separate dispute over the safety of larger A350 planes.

Airbus revoked the A321neo deal in January in retaliation for Qatar's refusal to take A350s in their core dispute over damage to the painted protective layer of the larger aircraft.

The judge rejected Qatar's argument that it could not obtain similar aircraft to make up the shortfall in A321neo supply, for example by turning to the leasing market or by deploying 737 MAX jets that it has provisionally ordered from Boeing.