

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-004463/14  
to the Commission  
Silvia-Adriana Țicău (S&D)  
(10 April 2014)**

*Subject:* EU-Russia agreement on Trans-Siberian routes

In 2006, on the basis of a mandate granted by the Council, the 'Agreed Principles of the Modernisation of the existing system of utilisation of the Trans-Siberian routes' were negotiated between the EU and Russia. A potential agreement between the EU and Russia on modernising the existing system of the Trans-Siberian routes could consolidate cooperation in the transport field within the EU-Russia common space.

In view of the latest developments on the international scene, can the Commission state whether there have been any changes in the schedule for negotiating this agreement?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission  
(2 June 2014)**

The cited 2006 'Agreed Principles' established, among other issues, the phasing-out of the Siberian overflight payments starting from January 2010. This agreement has however not been respected by the Russian Federation. Consequently, in November/December 2011 the Commission and the Russian government agreed on an updated version of those Principles, which entered into force as from 1 January 2012. This agreement contained a new date for the final phase-out of the overall system for Siberian overflight royalties: end of December 2013. As of 1 January 2014, all overflight charges should have been cost-related, transparent and payments should have only been made to the responsible authorities. However, Russia has not respected this deadline and EU air carriers are still paying under the disputed existing system for overflying Siberia en route to the Far East, despite Russian commitments made in this regard.

On 16 January 2014, Russian Vice-Minister of Transport Valerie Okulov committed to complete this process with the individual EU Member States within 6 months, meaning by mid-2014.

The Commission is following these negotiations closely.

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