

**Question for written answer E-008967/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

Subject: Single European Sky II

The Catalan Meteorological Service (SMC) has recently initiated the certification procedure to become a supplier of meteorological services to the air navigation sector by means of a request submitted to the Meteorological Supervisory Authority (ANSMET) of the State Secretariat for the Environment, in line with Order MAM/1792/2006 of 5 June. On completion of the certification process (which can take up to seven months), the SMC will ask the Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Environment to be designated a provider covering certain parts of Spanish airspace. As the SMC certification request relates to observation and forecasting services at airfields, the designation will apply to the airspace in the vicinity of the airport. Under Law 21/2003 of 7 July concerning aviation safety, the current state meteorological authority registered with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is the State Meteorological Agency (AEMet). It is also the sole provider of meteorological services to the civil aviation sector, as it is the only certified body appointed in 2006 following the creation, in 2004, of the Single European Sky and the publication of Order MAM/1792/2006 of 5 June which amended the certification procedure for providers of meteorological services to the aviation sector.

This situation is consistent with current legislation and, therefore, if another certified provider were to submit a request and if there was a will to have more than one provider in Spain, the legislation would have to be revised and AEMet's status as the exclusive provider in Spanish airspace would have to be amended. Article 9 ('Designation of providers of meteorological services') of Regulation (EC) No 550/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of air navigation services in the single European sky states that Member States may designate a provider to supply all or part of meteorological data on an exclusive basis in all or part of their airspace, taking into account safety considerations.

In light of the above, does the Commission believe that it is appropriate for a Member State to retain an exclusive provider if there are other companies in that Member State that have been, or are being, certified and are awaiting designation for the airspace?