

**Question for written answer E-008611/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Opening the aviation market to the civil use of remotely piloted aircraft systems

In April 2014, the Commission published a communication entitled 'A new era for aviation – Opening the aviation market to the civil use of remotely piloted aircraft systems in a safe and sustainable manner (RPAS)'. The communication calls for measures to be adopted to facilitate the gradual integration of RPAS into non-segregated airspace in the EU from 2016. The goals apparently originate in the Council Conclusions of December 2013. The Commission believes that opening the European marketplace to remotely piloted aircraft systems is an important step towards the aviation market of the future, and that the RPAS market provides an opportunity to create jobs and foster economic growth. However, I feel that moving towards opening up airspace throughout the EU to RPAS is completely undesirable, as it would bring with it a number of significant risks for EU citizens, particularly in terms of their day-to-day safety and privacy protection.

1. What specific steps does the Commission intend to take in order to inform the general public, using all means at its disposal and as soon as possible, about the approach it plans to take in this area and to foster public debate?
2. Does the Commission have in its possession studies and precise data backing up its projections for job growth caused by the development of RPAS?
3. What impact would the civil use of RPAS have on the markets in other modes of transport?