

**Question for written answer E-009696/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Compatibility with EU guidelines on State aid for regional airports

According to paragraphs 15, 50 and 56 of the Commission's document on case No N 63/2010, dated 9 June 2010, relating to State aid for the construction of the International Airport of the Region of Murcia, there are operational problems due to a restricted operating timetable at San Javier airport. However, the new airport that is planned would have the same operating timetable, as it would be continuously operational from 7.00 to 23.00.

With reference to paragraph 16, which states that San Javier airport is able to serve two million passengers, it should be pointed out that in fact it has a current capacity for three million passengers. Since 2007, when there were over 2 million passengers, demand has been falling to the point that there were only 1.1 million in 2013, and the forecast for 2014 is the same, which represents 35 % of its capacity.

Does the Commission consider that there is a need to open Murcia International Airport, which is situated 40 km from an existing airport in the same single-province autonomous regional community and which would supposedly reach a passenger through-flow of 6.2 million in 2012-2015?