

**Question for written answer E-010828/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Arnautu (NI)

Subject: Unfair competition in the air transport industry

The traditional European airlines are currently under threat, and some of them are at risk of disappearing.

In addition to the constraints inherent to the sector, the airlines must also cope with numerous distortions to competition, such as dangerous commercial practices and new types of employment contracts aimed at cutting the costs of labour, taxes and social security contributions. We are seeing the emergence of genuine flags of convenience in civil aviation; for example, there are crews based on other continents, aircraft registered in tax havens or young pilots being asked to pay to fly.

These practices are ruining the traditional European airlines which, if they wish to survive, need to adopt the same methods.

In addition, the national airlines from outside Europe, in particular those from the Near East, are either directly or indirectly subsidised to a large extent by their governments.

In contrast, European national airlines are unable to benefit from the same resources as these companies or to count on State assistance or subsidies.

What is the Commission planning to do to restore parity and enable the traditional European airlines to fight their competitors on an even footing?