

**Question for written answer E-011290/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: No to the handover of airports by the ND-PASOK coalition government to monopoly groups

The government has decided to hand over the 22 most commercially viable Greek regional airports for a 40-year period – which account for more than 50% of airport traffic – to monopoly groups, and sell the State's share in the airport of Athens. The Troika's prerequisites and the European Union's strategy for the concentration-monopolisation of air transport by freeing them in the framework of the 'Single European Sky' are being implemented. The aim is for enterprises to make profit; within 10 years, said enterprises will have recouped the 'investment' and will then exploit the airports for free for another thirty years, while they are granted expansion-modernisation projects, which the Greek people have paid for.

By handing over the airports to major [third party] interests, they are effectively surrendering a sector of critical economic and military importance in a geostrategic, powder-keg region. The rights of air transport employees are negatively affected, while the state civil aviation service is being dismantled. The increase in fees will be passed on to passengers, while socially necessary travel routes to non-tourist regions or during off-peak seasons will be cut, due to their limited profitability. This decision which runs counter to the public interest is part of the government's and the EU's general policy, which is a policy of development based on profit and is in no way related to the satisfaction of people's needs as advertised by EU executives and parties.

Will the Commission say:

- What is its stance with respect to the popular demand for exclusively public airports and an exclusively public air transport body, for safe, frequent and affordable air transport, and for the state to have the exclusive responsibility of Greek airspace?