

**Question for written answer E-000442/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Wim van de Camp (PPE)

Subject: Airlines' practice of imposing fuel surcharges in the guise of airport taxes

1. Is the Commission aware that airlines impose fuel surcharges/ carrier imposed charges as part of the reservation process and that these appear as 'airport taxes' on the passenger's ticket? Is this permitted?
2. If an airline passenger does not use the ticket, he or she is still bound by its fare conditions. However, where a ticket is sold at a non-refundable fare, airlines do not refund the fuel surcharges/ carrier imposed charges to the passenger either, even though these do not form part of the fare but are added to the ticket as 'airport taxes'. Does the Commission consider that airlines should always refund these fuel surcharges/carrier imposed charges?
3. Airlines make an administrative charge for refunding airport taxes if a passenger does not use the ticket. Is it desirable for them to do this, given that they are already charging 100% of the cost of what is often a non-refundable fare?