

**Question for written answer E-002570/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: Working conditions of pilots and flight safety

The University of Ghent has carried out a study, at the request of the EU, on working conditions for pilots in civil aviation. The study covers 6 633 pilots employed by European airlines, and one of its conclusions is that flight safety is under pressure from the demands of cheap tickets and a high degree of competition, as a result of which one in four pilots state that they are not able to comply with the requirements of accountability and safety in the air. Among pilots on fixed contracts, the figure is 90%¹.

In the study a pilot also said he had experienced 'how pilot staffing levels have worsened in recent years. Nowadays young people are tricked into the industry, lured by career possibilities which no longer exist. The main reason is low-cost airlines which sell cheap tickets on a fiercely competitive market.'

Does the Commission agree that the very fierce competition among airlines could have serious safety consequences for air transport in Europe?

If so, what steps is the Commission prepared to take to ensure that airline safety does not go by the board in the race for the lowest common price denominator?

Is the Commission prepared to consider amending legislation with a view to safeguarding passengers and crew from dangerous situations owing to poor and unjustifiable working conditions?

¹ http://mobil.svd.se/nyheter/eu-piloters-villkor-hot-mot-sakerheten_svd-4329905