

**Question for written answer E-005203/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jutta Steinruck (S&D), Evelyn Regner (S&D), Ismail Ertug (S&D) and Gabriele Preuß (S&D)

Subject: Investigation of working conditions at airlines based in the Gulf States

The working conditions of airlines based in the Gulf States, such as Emirates, Qatar and Etihad, have already been characterised by exploitative contractual conditions, blatant breaches of ILO core labour standards and apparently large-scale interference in the private lives of their employees. Unfair competitive practices and high levels of state subsidies further distort competition on an international level and put pressure on the European aviation sector, which is already being squeezed.

According to media reports, Commissioner Bulc has now expressed her support for the proposal of transport ministers Dobrindt and Vidalies to regulate aviation relations with the Arab States by way of an agreement which prohibits the anti-competitive practices of the Gulf States.

1. Which measures is the Commission considering for the purposes of regulating aviation relations with the Gulf States?
2. In that context, will the Commission tackle the aspect of inadequate employee protection at the Gulf airlines with the same degree of emphasis as the unfair competitive practices?