

Question for written answer E-012195/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Infringement of EU law in connection with the apparent privatisation of 14 regional airports in Greece

The Greek Government Gazette of 17 August 2015 contains a decision adopted by the Economic Policy Council under the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the three-year ESM programme to grant the Fraport AG-Slntel consortium a 40-plus-10-year lease for the management of 14 regional airports, including the airports of Thessaloniki and Chania.

Fraport AG, a German national transport company, already occupies a dominant position in the airport management sector, not only in Europe but throughout the world, being responsible for airports in the Balkans and Turkey that are in competition with the 14 Greek regional airports concerned, thus effectively securing a monopoly within the EU in contravention of its competition rules.

In addition, the airports of Thessaloniki and Chania are receiving EUR 520 million in NSRF project funding, resulting in a further distortion of competition in favour of the above company and thereby infringing Article 107 TFEU prohibiting State aid, not to mention the market economy investor principle.

In view of this:

What action will the Commission take to ensure compliance with EU law and overturn what appear to be illegal privatisation proceedings?