

**Question for written answer E-003690/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Overlap of competencies between EASA, Eurocontrol and other aviation authorities

The Commission recently presented a draft regulation which would establish an 'EU aviation safety agency'. This agency will take over from the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), created around 15 years ago. Its main objective was to be the authority in charge of issuing certifications for aeronautical products in the EU. The agency's functions have been extended over time, particularly in 2008. These functions should be strengthened within the new agency.

This development raises concerns. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (linked to the UN), Eurocontrol and several other national authorities are also involved in aviation safety and air traffic management.

As an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1960, which today includes 41 states (including all of the EU Member States), Eurocontrol has considerably greater means at its disposal than EASA, in terms of both staff and technical expertise.

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

- What objectives and what long-term strategy is the Commission following with regard to extending EASA's competencies?
- How does the Commission justify its agency encroaching on the competencies of Eurocontrol and the national agencies?
- How will tasks be divided between these different agencies in the future?