

**Question for written answer E-004714/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Air transport agreements and Gulf carriers

On 7 June 2016 the Dutch newspaper 'Financieel Dagblad' reported - ahead of the outcome of that day's Transport Council meeting - that the Commission would be given a mandate to conclude air transport agreements. In a letter, attention has been drawn by E4FC (supporters of Europeans for Fair Competition) to the relationship between European airlines and their competitors in the Gulf states. Various stakeholders fear that negotiations will result in Gulf carriers being given access to the European internal market.

1. Has the Commission assessed what the impact would be of opening up the European market to Gulf carriers, including as regards employment and safety aspects? If so, what are its findings? If not, when will the Commission put an assessment in hand?
2. Is the Commission aware that, if Gulf carriers are admitted, there will be unfair competition - because they receive state aid - and how does it propose to prevent that?
3. How does the Commission propose to address the objections raised by the E4FC supporters?