

Question for written answer E-006945/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Daniela Aiuto (EFDD)

Subject: Non-compliance of Italian government guidelines with Communication 2014/C 99/03 on incentive schemes for airlines to start up and expand aviation routes

In Communication 2014/C 99/3, the Commission issued guidelines on state aid for airports and airlines. On 11 August 2016, the Italian Government redrafted its guidelines of 2 October 2014 on the basis of that communication. The new guidelines do not fully reflect the EU's objectives, as they fail to take account of a number of provisions of the communication and do not establish a comprehensive framework. Although the guidelines refer to the use of non-aeronautical revenues generated by airlines that benefit from incentive schemes, it is unclear whether the use of those revenues meets the market economy operator test. What is more, on page 5 of the guidelines it is stated that airport operators are free to lay down the procedures for selecting the airlines that are to benefit from the schemes, provided that the principles of transparency and competition are adhered to.

- In the Commission's view, are the Italian Government's new guidelines consistent with Commission Communication 2014/C 99/03?
- Given that public money is involved, is allowing airport operators the freedom to choose the airlines that are to benefit from the incentive schemes compatible with the principles of transparency and competition?
- In view of recital 25 of Directive 2014/23/EU on the award of concession contracts, would the Commission not agree that it should lay down detailed rules governing the use of non-aeronautical revenues as part of airport revenues?