

**Question for written answer E-003589/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Barbara Kappel (ENF)

Subject: State aid rules for airports

In 2014, the Court of Auditors published a study on the poor value for money of EU-funded investments in airports. However, in May 2017 the Commission eased the rules on state aid for airports by exempting certain activities from prior scrutiny.

1. How does the Commission reconcile the recent simplification of rules for investment in airports with the 2014 report by the Court of Auditors?
2. How does the Commission reconcile this simplification with the Growth and Stability Pact, especially with respect to highly indebted and uncompetitive Member States and regions?
3. What are the guarantees that this simplification will not lead to more public debt, and more useless investments in un(der)used airports?