

**Question for written answer E-003871/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE) and Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Bilateral agreements on airspace and competition

This week, Bjorn Kjos, CEO of Norwegian Air Shuttle, stated that his company could not start operating a direct Barcelona-Tokyo flight because of the bilateral agreement signed by Spain and Russia in summer 2016. The agreement stipulates that trans-Siberian flights operating flight paths through Russian airspace and flying to or from a third country must be flying to or from Madrid airport<sup>1</sup>.

Under the Single European Sky agreement and given that establishing new flight paths could signify an increase in employment and increased economic growth:

1. Does the Commission think that these agreements, which give some airports exclusive rights on certain routes, distort competition between companies and regions?
2. Will the Commission look into this matter?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.elmundo.es/cataluna/2017/04/05/58e4dd7046163f90058b46c5.html>.