

**Question for written answer E-003879/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Possibilities for European air passengers to access CODA with a view to obtaining compensation for delayed/cancelled flights

If a flight is delayed or cancelled, and as a result passengers experience a delay of more than three hours, those passengers have a right to compensation under Regulation (EC) No 261/2004. The right to compensation does not apply, however, if the delay or cancellation is the result of extraordinary circumstances. Airlines therefore often cite this as a justification when they refuse a request for compensation.

It is not possible for individual passengers to appeal against this without involving the relevant national enforcement body, as pointed out in the Commission's answer to Written Question E-001497/2017.

The reasons for delays are recorded by the Central Office for Delay Analysis (CODA), which operates under the auspices of the EU and Eurocontrol. The data concerned, however, are only accessible to airlines, national authorities and courts. The relevant authority in the USA, RITA BTS, is freely accessible to everyone.

Is the Commission aware that the USA has a publicly accessible database, RITA BTS, that lists the reasons why flights are delayed or cancelled?

Will it be possible for European consumers to obtain the same kind of public direct access to flight delay and cancellation data via CODA as their American counterparts enjoy?

Could the Commission state whether there is a possibility for the individual Member States' national enforcement bodies to provide access to CODA so that consumers can obtain information as to why their flights were delayed or cancelled?