

**Question for written answer E-007158/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Minimum comfort and safety measures for passengers on commercial airlines

The space between consecutive rows of seats in commercial passenger aircraft, especially with 'low-cost' airlines (although traditional airlines are following a similar pattern¹), has been decreasing in recent years, as has the width of the seats². This trend has led to – in the USA, for instance – legal challenges with a view to regulating the space between seats³.

For future models, airlines are promising a greater number of seats in similar sized planes, which in practice could mean a greater decrease in legroom⁴ and an increased risk of 'economy class syndrome' (blood clots in the legs, particularly on long-haul flights⁵).

Moreover, price competition has meant that, in actual fact, links between many cities are restricted to the low-cost airlines, which reduces the alternatives available to travellers.

Taking into account both the effects on health and market trends, will the Commission consider the need to regulate the minimum distance between seats ('seat pitch') so as not to damage the health or undermine the safety of commercial airline passengers?

¹ <http://www.airlinequality.com/info/seat-pitch-guide/>

² <http://www.airlinequality.com/info/seat-pitch-guide/>

³ <http://money.cnn.com/2017/07/29/news/companies/faa-airline-seat-sizes/index.html>

⁴ <http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/airline-seat-width-pitch-size-simon-calder-a6984561.html>

⁵ <http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=15872>