

**Question for written answer E-002979/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Deirdre Clune (PPE)

Subject: International Consolidated Airlines Group (IAG) and Aer Lingus acquisition

In 2015 International Consolidated Airlines Group (IAG) acquired the Irish airline Aer Lingus. Under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition was approved by the Commission, subject to a number of conditions.

At the time the Commission had concerns that the merged entity would have faced insufficient competition on several routes, which could ultimately lead to higher prices.

The Commission also analysed whether there was a risk that IAG would prevent passengers flying on Aer Lingus' short-haul flights from Dublin, Cork, Shannon, Knock and Belfast from connecting with long-haul flights operated by competing airlines out of other European airports, including Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Dublin and Amsterdam.

A number of conditions were attached to the acquisition by the Commission to ensure that these concerns would be addressed and that air passengers would continue to have a choice of airlines at competitive prices following IAG's takeover of Aer Lingus.

Is the Commission satisfied these conditions are being adhered to by the parties? What procedures are in place to monitor these conditions?