

**Question for written answer E-001425/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: Abuses of dominant position by airlines and the impact on consumers, SMEs and fair competition

The travel industry has rallied against abuses of dominant position by airline alliances. Discriminatory practices in connection with the distribution of air services, such as overcharging global distribution systems and travel agents for accessing content, is common. Airlines even offer cheaper rates if bookings are made via their own websites, which makes it more difficult to compare offers. This affects both private and business passengers.

Travel agents, which are often SMEs, also see their costs go up and are no longer able to offer their customers the best prices.

1. Has the Commission looked into the impact of overcharging and other forms of discrimination on consumers and, if not, could DG Freedom, Security and Justice do so?
2. Can the Commission confirm that these practices by airlines limit the rights of consumers to access comparable offers and make it more difficult to access different distribution channels?
3. How does it intend to tackle this problem?