

**Question for written answer E-001786/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Caroline Nagtegaal (ALDE)**

Subject: US criticism of cooperation between Qatar Airways and Air Italy

Yesterday, criticism was expressed from the United States concerning the codeshare cooperation between Qatar Airways and Air Italy. Dissatisfaction has existed for some time regarding unfair competition involving airlines from the Gulf States. Since last year, America has had an agreement with Qatar Airways preventing the latter from increasing its flights to the United States.

The cooperation between Qatar Airways and Air Italy not only gives Qatar Airways a 49% stake in Air Italy. It also gives Qatar Airways access to more international flights. This will permit additional flights to the United States, to the disgust of the USA. The US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, has already stated that he will look 'very closely' at this cooperation<sup>1</sup>.

As long ago as 2017, the Commission announced measures against this unfair competition.

1. What view does the Commission take of the codeshare cooperation between European airlines and carriers in the Middle East?
2. What view does the Commission take of the specific codeshare cooperation between Qatar Airways and Air Italy? Does this cooperation comply with all the rules?
3. What measures has the Commission already taken to prevent unfair competition from airlines based in the Middle East, and will additional penalties be imposed on account of this cooperation?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-qatar-airlines-idUSKCN1RM1XD>