

**Question for written answer E-001829/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Caroline Nagtegaal (ALDE)

Subject: Need for a fair aviation agreement with Qatar

On 4 March 2019, the Commission announced that it had concluded an aviation agreement with Qatar. According to Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc, the agreement comprises a package of rules and provides for high standards and a platform for future cooperation on a wide range of aviation matters, for example in the field of safety standards¹. At the same time, there have for years been problems in the aviation industry because carriers from the Gulf States, which have the benefit of partial state aid, compete unfairly in the aviation sector. This is damaging to our beloved European, and Dutch, aviation industry. I have previously tabled questions concerning the cooperation between Air Italy and Qatar Airways, which may also be giving rise to unfair competition.

1. How did these negotiations address Qatar's (alleged) state aid to its airlines?
2. Does the Commission agree with the VVD that such agreements can only be concluded on the basis of fair competition, so that they do not come at the expense of our own aviation industry?
3. How will the Commission ensure fair competition in the aviation industry and prevent improper state aid to Gulf carriers?

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1490_en.htm