

**Question for written answer P-003349/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Davor Ivo Stier (PPE)

Subject: Directive on package travel and assisted travel arrangements

The proposed directive on package travel and assisted travel arrangements could definitely harm hotel companies and adversely affect the competitiveness and profitability of the hotel industry in the EU.

Under Article 3 of the proposal, accommodation combined with '[an]other tourist service' does not constitute a package if the 'other tourist service' accounts for less than 20% of the total price. This might discourage hotel operators from investing in additional tourist content and creating more varied and innovative services, and travellers would have to put up with more expensive services and a limited selection of special offers. Furthermore, the definition of assisted travel arrangements in Article 3 is too hazy. According to the text as proposed, accommodation on its own could be considered an assisted travel arrangement if the hotelier's website advertised tourist services offered at the destination, whether or not the hotelier had concluded an agreement to sell those services with the service provider.

To ensure that the directive will bring greater transparency and legal certainty to travellers and traders, will the Commission, during the trialogue process, explore the possibilities for:

1. raising the 'significant proportion of the package' from the proposed 20% to 25%?
2. defining the concept of assisted travel arrangements in more clear-cut terms?