

Question for written answer P-005471/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Werner Langen (PPE)

Subject: Derogations in connection with the sale of Hahn airport

Closure of Hahn regional airport has been averted only because of considerable capital injections by the largest shareholder, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate. Although Rhineland-Palatinate has assumed liabilities and purchased some of the infrastructure facilities, the airport continues to post major losses that, given the current economic situation, may ultimately put its very existence at risk if freight volumes and passenger numbers are not markedly, and permanently, stabilised.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission have access to Hahn airport's operating results, has it verified the compatibility of state aids granted to date, and of those that have been pledged, with the guidelines for airports, and has it approved those state aids?
2. Has the Commission given the state of Rhineland-Palatinate an assurance, in response to a request, concerning derogations going beyond what is laid down in the guidelines? If so, what are those derogations?
3. With a view to ensuring flight operations at Hahn airport in the long term, how does the Commission view the fact that the sale has been delayed because of doubts as to the purchaser's creditworthiness?