

**Question for written answer P-002465/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Werner Langen (PPE)

Subject: Sale of Hahn Airport by Rhineland-Palatinate

Having failed to sell Hahn Airport in 2016, the Land of Rhineland-Palatinate sold its stake in March 2017 to the Chinese HNA Group. The Rhineland-Palatinate Government did not take the bidders' business plans into consideration at the time of the sale. In the answer that it gave on 18 August 2016 to my earlier question, the Commission outlined the State aid rules applying to the sale of a public undertaking.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Is it still the case that under current EU law a business plan may not serve as a basis for decision-taking concerning a public sale, but the solvency of the buyer certainly is a deciding factor?
2. While the sale was proceeding, did Rhineland-Palatinate remain in touch with the Commission in order to ensure that the procedure would be unobjectionable from the aid point of view?
3. As regards possible State aid for the operation of the airport after it has been sold, to what extent is this being factored into the Commission's assessment of the selling process?