

**Question for written answer P-005941/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Re-routing of cancelled flights

Ryanair has announced that it is cancelling 2% of its flights in the next six weeks. This is expected to affect 400 000 passengers. Concerning these passengers' rights, the Managing Director of Ryanair had this to say on the BBC: 'We will not pay for flights on other airlines, no. It is not part of the EU261 entitlement.'

Under Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 261/2004, passengers affected by the cancellation of a flight shall be offered assistance by the operating air carrier in accordance with Article 8 of that regulation.

Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) No 261/2004 gives the passengers concerned a choice between reimbursement, re-routing at the first opportunity, or re-routing at a later date at the passenger's convenience. In both cases (Article 8(1)(b) and Article 8(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 261/2004), the passenger has the right to 're-routing, under comparable transport conditions, to their final destination...'

Can the Commission please answer the following:

Can an airline refuse to re-book its passengers on another airline when it cancels its flights?

If an airline re-routes the journey following cancellation, and the re-routing is more expensive than the original trip, can the airline refuse to pay the difference?