

**Question for written answer E-005215/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miriam Dalli (S&D)

Subject: Conditions of companion animals in air transport

A number of airlines allow a limited number and type of pets to travel in the cabin while others limit cabin travel to assistance animals. For this, owners pay a fee ranging from EUR 30 to EUR 200, allowing the pet to be kept under their legs or underneath the seat.

The fee does not allow for a possible seat allocation, even though passengers might require more leg space.

It is has been scientifically proven that the stress levels of animals increase in air transport, which may have a negative impact on the health of pets.

The travel crate dimensions dictated by airlines determine that the dogs are able to stand up and turn around in the crate. In practice dogs, even those under 5kg, are unable to turn due to crate measurements of 40cm x 34cm x 20cm.

Given the fees already being paid, from a consumer protection point of view, can the Commission look into the suggestion that pets in crates be allowed on their owner's lap, as opposed to being crammed in a tight space?

Would it be possible to allow pet owners to buy a passenger seat in order to allow their pet more space and a bigger crate?