

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2468/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Islands

The Commission is currently studying the possibility of taxing aviation fuel. This would mean a fuel tax on all flights from Community airports.

Is the Commission aware of the EU island regions' extreme dependence on air transport, as it is clearly impossible for them to join the road or rail network (and, in the case of most of the most outlying regions, impossible for them even to use regular sea passenger transport)?

On the basis of Article 299 (2) (for the most outlying regions), Article 158, and Declaration No 30 adopted at Amsterdam, does the Commission intend to propose derogations for links with or between islands as this measure will aggravate the problems caused by their isolation?