

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2916/01
by Pere Esteve (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Introduction of a tax on kerosene

One of the objectives set out in the white paper on transport adopted by the Commission is to banish polluting aircraft from the EU's airspace.

One of the measures being considered by the Commission is the introduction of a tax on kerosene, which is the main fuel used by aircraft. This would give airlines an incentive to update their fleet in order to reduce CO₂ emissions.

This Commission initiative aimed at moving towards a more environment-friendly transport model in the EU is to be welcomed.

However, in the case of the Balearic Islands air transport is today a necessity. Alternative transport modes can have only a limited scope: land transport is impossible, while sea transport is restricted in frequency and can only link the islands with the mainland Spanish ports of Denia, Valencia and Barcelona.

In addition, were the kerosene tax to be applied extensively it could come into conflict with the special regime applying to the Balearic Islands, with its measures to reduce the additional costs of island status for both passenger and goods transport.

1. Is the Commission aware of the undesired effects which could arise from the introduction of this tax in regions such as the Balearic Islands where there are no alternatives to air transport?
2. Does the Commission intend to adopt specific measures to cover cases such as this?