

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0030/02
by Doris Pack (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Air transport: compatibility of alliances with competition

1. What is the Commission's appraisal, in terms of safeguarding competition, of the agreements on price-fixing and terms and conditions between European and non-European airlines within what are termed 'alliances'?
2. Does such cooperation, in the Commission's view, hinder or foster competition?
3. As regards consumers/passengers, what impact does the Commission expect such arrangements to have on air fares now and in the future?
4. What is the Commission's appraisal of the agreements entered into by airlines to pay commission to travel agencies or IATA agents?
5. Are such agreements on price-fixing and terms and conditions which involve the payment of commission compatible with EU competition law?