

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0623/04
by Alexandros Alavanos (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Schedules of airlines from third countries

Following the recent tragic crash of the Flash Airlines plane from Sharm el-Sheik in Egypt, the United Kingdom published a list of third countries airlines which are banned from using its airspace since they fail to comply with the international safety rules laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization. One of the airlines blacklisted in this way is Albanian Airlines, which operates a flight three or four times a week between Athens and Tirana.

Will the Commission say:

1. Why has the United Kingdom included Albanian Airlines on its blacklist? Have the services of a Member State to which this airline flies verified the reliability of this airline? If so, what are the findings? Have the competent authorities carried out a runway inspection, as provided for under the Chicago Convention?
2. Are such inspections covered by the recent agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on a system of controls and verification of the safety of aircraft of third countries airlines using Community airports?