

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1353/06
by Ulrich Stockmann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: European fight against pandemics

A mutation of the H5N1 virus would result in a threat of global and/or European pandemics. National plans regarding pandemics are only effective when they form part of a pandemic plan coordinated at a European level. In this context, establishing coordinated national single points of contact is important. Only then can a sufficient level of protection be guaranteed and distortions to competition (e.g. in airports) avoided. The question of pandemic prevention concerns not only health and consumer protection but also transport, in particular. With regard to the transport sector, a European plan for combating pandemics should be designed to not only apply to international airports and flights from third countries but to all border-crossing traffic.

1. To what extent does the Commission plan to integrate transport-related aspects when coordinating the fight against pandemics at a European level?
2. Are other carriers besides airlines being considered?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the idea of having national single points of contact and coordinating them at a European level?
4. When will the Commission inform Parliament of the planned measures and where does it see particular potential threats and the need for action?
5. How far have the talks with Member States developed regarding the formulation of a European plan for combating pandemics?