

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5345/08
by Roberto Fiore (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Nationalisation of Alitalia

The Italian national flag-carrier, Alitalia, is facing a very serious financial crisis which will make it difficult in the coming days for it to operate its national and international flights, because of the lack of resources to purchase fuel and the threatened withdrawal of the relevant licences by the Italian civil aviation authority (ENAC).

The European transport Commissioner, Antonio Tajani, has said that the EU will not consent to the threatened nationalisation of Alitalia, since Italy has undertaken to guarantee that the State will take a minority holding in the company, with due regard for European rules on transparency and non-discrimination in the sale of its assets.

The thrust of the rules referred to by the Commissioner is that there is a limit on the amount of state funding or shareholding in Alitalia, whereas nationalisation is an entirely different legal instrument which would relate to an entity different from Alitalia, although having the same name.

In the light of the above, will the Commission review its legal stance and, in line with the EU's wishes, allow the only possible form of rescue operation for the Italian national flag-carrier, namely the swift nationalisation of the company?