

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1286/09

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to the Commission

Subject: Liberalisation of slots no longer used by Alitalia

Further to the reorganisation of the Italian flag carrier, Alitalia has decided to cancel seven flight routes between Apulian airports and the hubs of Rome and Milan without, however, releasing the take-off and landing slots which it no longer intends to use. These slots cannot therefore be put back onto the market, thereby preventing other airlines from covering the cancelled routes and making 29 international links unusable.

The same problem has arisen with other links with southern Italian destinations, such as the Malpensa-Naples route and the Linate-Lamezia Terme route.

This is clearly detrimental to the efficiency of transport in Apulia, Campania and Calabria, which are all Objective 1 regions which have to develop their infrastructure.

Does the Commission not consider that this runs counter to the principles of free competition on the market and the free movement of services?