

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1829/09

by Mario Borghezio (UEN) and Erminio Enzo Boso (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: EU should not block unused airport slots

European rules on airport slots require companies not using at least 80% of their slots to return unused ones to the open market,

According to press reports (*Corriere della Sera* of 11 March 2009), the Commissioner responsible for transport is said to be considering an exemption for the company Alitalia, which is not using all of its slots on the Rome-Milan route.

Does the Commission not think that, not only would this be contrary to the rules in force, but also a negative response to the legitimate expectations as regards liberalisation long felt by other market operators and by local authorities concerned to ensure both the current smooth operation and future development of Malpensa and Linate airports and the expected benefits in terms of jobs?