

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3711/10
by Joe Higgins (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Working time policy of the Irish Aviation Authority

Is the Commission aware of the policy of the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) to count Search & Rescue Aircrew on 'standby readiness' (45 minutes from call to in-flight status) as 50% towards their working time limits?

The IAA has also recently imposed an increase of this reduction of standby time which now reflects the first 6 hours of 'standby readiness' off-site at only 25% towards total working time hours. This results in the lengthening of working times for Search & Rescue Aircrew and does not reflect the actual social hours that they work.

Does the Commission believe that this contravenes ECJ case law (in particular the SIMAP, JAGER and Pfeiffer rulings) and Directives 2000/79/EC¹ and 2003/88/EC²?

¹ OJ L 302, 1.12.2000, p. 57.

² OJ L 299, 18.11.2003, p. 9.