

**Question for written answer E-5850/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Dominique Baudis (PPE)

Subject: Disputes between Boeing and Airbus in the WTO

On 30 June 2010, the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) panel on the complaint brought by the United States against the European Union regarding alleged state aid for aeronautics companies published its report. Despite partly ruling against the EU over preferential credit rates, the panel ruled that the repayable advances which Airbus benefits from are compatible with WTO rules. The panel also stated that the socio-economic position of the US aeronautics industry had not suffered as a result of the advances.

1. Will the EU appeal against the decision of 30 June 2010?
2. The WTO has ruled that the aid to the aeronautics industry under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development is illegal. Will this aid be continued in the framework programme in the next financial perspectives?

Another WTO panel is to rule on a dispute brought by the EU against the US. On 8 July 2010, the publication of the confidential report, which was originally scheduled for mid-July, was postponed until September. The WTO panel decided that it needed more time to consider all the evidence. This delay could weaken EADS, Airbus' parent company, thus favouring Boeing in the bid for the contract to replace the American military's tanker aircraft.

3. Will the EU support Airbus in this case?
4. In order to return to sound and fair competition, as at the beginning of the decade, should the EU not negotiate an end to the crisis with the US following the publication of the recent report? Is it necessary to wait for the publication of the second report?