

**Question for written answer E-001089/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Knut Fleckenstein (S&D)

Subject: Noise reduction at Community airports: review of Directive 2002/30/EC

In its work programme for 2011 the Commission has announced, as part of its Airports Package, that it intends to review Directive 2002/30/EC on the establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Community airports.

The Member States of the European Union regard the issue of noise restrictions at Community airports as a very low priority. At present they basically take the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Balanced Approach to Airport Noise Management.

What efforts is the Commission making to harmonise rules at European level on noise-related operating restrictions at Community airports? Has the Commission taken any initiatives towards reducing take-offs and landings of commercial night flights?

What options are being discussed in the Commission with a view to stepping up the harmonisation of bans on night flights by passenger aircraft? What efforts are being made to harmonise restrictions on night flights in the European Union as a whole?

In any further restriction of commercial night flights, what consideration will be given to the situation of Community airports near major centres of population?