

**Question for written answer E-004658/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Frieda Brepoels (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Unfair competition between Brussels and Charleroi airports

1. What is the state of play as regards the infringement proceeding which has been launched? Has Belgium already given the Commission a formal and definitive answer as regards air navigation charges in addition to the initial information provided on 5 July 2011?
2. Does that information also include a notice to the Commission on Belgian unit rates for terminal air navigation services as requested in Regulation (EC) No 1794/2006 laying down a common charging scheme for air navigation services? Which airports exceed the threshold of 50 000 air transport movements?
3. Has Belgium provided a list of exempted airports?

The following sub-questions relate to questions 1, 2 and 3:

- If so, when, and what was the substance of the answer?
 - How does the Commission view the answer?
 - If not, why not and what action has the Commission taken? What action is the Commission possibly planning to take and when?
4. The investigation into illegal state aid for Charleroi Airport restarted recently. What is the current situation? When does the Commission expect to wind up the investigation?
 5. Is the Commission familiar with the recent report by the Flemish Airport Commission¹? What is the Commission's view of the findings in that report?
 6. Under the double taxation convention between Ireland and Belgium, Ireland has the right to tax the pay of pilots who work for Irish airlines. How does the Commission view the fact that Ireland does not make use of its taxation rights? Is Ireland violating the ban on state aid and/or the free movement of workers if this proves to be a sectoral measure?

¹ <http://www.serv.be/vlc/publicatie/rapport-concurrentiepositie-zaventem>