

**Question for written answer E-007732/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Philip Bradbourn (ECR)

Subject: Restriction on cabin baggage allowance

The European Parliament is concerned by some air carriers' restrictions to the cabin baggage allowance ('one bag'-rule). This year, the European Parliament adopted two own-initiative reports which request the European Commission to take action.

Firstly, the Taylor report – on the functioning and application of established rights of people travelling by air – calls for measures that would make it possible to harmonise commercial practice concerning hand luggage so as to protect passengers against excessive restrictions and allow them to carry on board a reasonable amount of hand luggage, including purchases from airport shops.

Secondly, the Bradbourn report – on the future of regional airports and air services in the EU – highlights how airport retail sales have decreased markedly due to the introduction of restrictive policies on hand luggage by some airlines. Given the current aggressive business practice of some low-cost airlines operating from regional airports to take advantage of their dominant position, the report takes the view that these practices represent a breach of competition law, and believes that these restrictions may constitute an abuse of a carrier's dominant position. The report calls for airport retail purchases and other such small carry-on baggage such as handbags and computer cases to be treated as 'essential items', as is currently the case for items such as coats.

In the light of the European Parliament's concerns and its calls for action, and taking into account the impact assessment with a view to the revision of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004:

1. Does the Commission plan to propose measures to impose an EU-wide ban on the so-called 'one bag' rule?
2. If not, could the Commission indicate the reasons why the European Parliament's views are not being followed on this issue?