

**Question for written answer E-009388/2012  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (PPE)**

Subject:     Financing of airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports (revision of guidelines)

Over 500 million passengers a year use regional airports in Europe. These regional airports are vital for intra- and extra-European air transport, the accessibility of regions and the mobility of citizens. It is also generally accepted that airports with fewer than one million passengers are not economically viable and cannot continue to operate without State aid.

Will the Commission take this economic reality into account when drafting its revised guidelines and, in particular, authorise operating aid for airports with fewer than one million passengers?