

**Question for written answer E-010397/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Mathieu Grosch (PPE)

Subject: EU-US air transport agreement

On the basis of the 'open skies' agreement between the EU and the US, most Member States have decided - there are a few exceptions - no longer to allow US air carriers to carry out cabotage operations. US carriers are not abiding by these rules, however, and are demonstrably carrying out cabotage operations in European airspace. Cabotage by European carriers in US airspace is prohibited, and this is efficiently verified by the US authorities. The fact that US carriers carry out cabotage operations despite not being allowed to do so results in distortions of competition which disadvantage European carriers.

1. What urgent action is the Commission proposing to take to combat this market distortion?
2. Pilots from third countries such as the US, for example, remain in the EU for a lengthy period (one year) and work out of there without being subject to European social security and employment rules. What is the Commission doing to combat this?