

**Question for written answer E-012994/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Christine De Veyrac (PPE)**

Subject: Use of electronic tablets on planes

The American civil aviation agency, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), announced this week that tablets and video game consoles could, by the end of the year, remain switched on during take-off and landing on American planes. This is because the ban on the use of electronic equipment imposed 50 years ago is no longer necessary for modern digital devices with low radiation. Furthermore, more and more airlines will be offering Wi-Fi access to their passengers. The use of mobile phones, on the other hand, continues to be prohibited during flights.

Extending the authorised use of electronic devices throughout the flight will not have any negative impact on passenger safety. However, in rare circumstances when visibility is poor due to bad weather, passengers could be requested to turn them off.

The European aviation authorities, for their part, have stated that they also envisage authorising the use of such electronic devices throughout flights.

Does the Commission intend to encourage the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to follow the recommendations of the FAA by also authorising these devices on European planes to ensure safety rules are imposed in a similar manner worldwide and comfortable travel conditions for passengers?