

**Question for written answer E-002304/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Peter van Dalen (ECR)**

Subject: Norwegian Air International

It was recently announced that Norwegian Air International intended to offer flights between Western Europe and the United States under an Irish licence. Pilots and cabin crew would be based in Thailand and hired temporarily via a temporary employment agency in Singapore.

1. Does the Commission consider it desirable and acceptable that a Norwegian airline should use an Irish subsidiary to offer flights between Western Europe and the United States with crews based in Thailand employed on temporary contracts governed by Singapore law? Does the Commission consider that a genuine link should exist between the main place of employment and establishment of the employees and the country whose law applies to the employment contracts? If not, does the Commission not consider there to be any risks of social dumping, in disregard of high European employment standards?
2. Can the Commission give an assurance that the business plan for which NAI has opted will not lead to illegal tax evasion by NAI or its possible subsidiaries and/or employees?
3. Can the Commission guarantee that the safety of NAI's aircraft will be sufficiently monitored? In this specific case, which authority is responsible for the safety of these aircraft and will be jointly responsible in the event of an accident due to a technical cause entailing culpability?