

**Question for written answer E-004045/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Suspected bogus self-employment at Ryanair

A number of French newspapers recently reported that the Irish budget airline Ryanair had been infringing EU law and its staff's employment rights by having developed a system of bogus self-employment, thus benefiting from no longer having to pay social security contributions (unlike under 'traditional' contracts with its pilots).

Such a practice, should it actually be taking place, ought to be severely penalised at a time when most airlines are playing by the rules, competing with each other and complying with EU social legislation, despite the economic crisis affecting European air transport.

The European committee for sectoral social dialogue in civil aviation recently launched an inquiry into this issue, and not long ago there was an exchange of views in Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

1. Has the Commission conducted an inquiry into this practice, which, should it actually be taking place, would seriously call into question social safeguards for workers in the sector, as well as free and undistorted competition between airlines? If not, does it intend to do so?
2. Should the inquiry by the Commission confirm the facts, will it promptly take the necessary action to put an end to the situation?