

**Question for written answer E-013783/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE), Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE) and Georges Bach (PPE)

Subject: Follow-up to reply to Written Question P-008983/2015 - Revision of Regulation (EC) No 868/2004 in order to safeguard fair competition and a level playing field in EU external aviation relations

It is quite evident that Regulation (EC) No 868/2004 on protection against unfair pricing practices in the air transport sector has proved ineffective or at least inadequate with regard to the kind of competition coming from Gulf carriers. The Commission knows very well that such amounts of subsidisation would clearly be considered illegal state aid if applied to any EU companies. The status quo is not an option.

EU airlines must continue to restructure and become more efficient. However, The EU must act fast with regard to unfair competition, ensure reciprocity and eliminate unfair practices, including subsidies and state aid to airlines from third countries that clearly distort the market.

Following the impact assessment and stakeholder consultation:

1. Can the Commission state whether it will indeed propose to Parliament the revision of Regulation (EC) No 868/2004, guaranteeing reciprocity among EU and non-EU carriers?
2. Will the Commission include and insert a binding and transparent 'fair competition clause' in EU external aviation relations?
3. Regarding the EU rules on the ownership and control of EU airlines, will the Commission propose changes in the Aviation Package with regard to the vague concept of 'effective control'?