

**Question for written answer E-002666/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Tibor Szanyi (S&D)**

Subject: Unequal competitive conditions for airlines serving the same routes

In its reply of 11 March 2016 to my question concerning Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 (E-000344/2016), the Commission dismissed the possibility of a modification of the geographical scope of the Regulation to cover flights from an airport located in a third country to an airport located in the EU where the operating carrier is not an EU carrier.

1. I would nevertheless once again ask the Commission whether, even bearing in mind the limitations imposed by international law, the hybrid state of affairs created by the Regulation ensures fair and equal competitive conditions between EU airlines and third-country airlines.
2. Does not the fact that the Regulation requires EU airlines to pay compensation in the event of disruption of air services, while flights by third-country airlines to airports in the EU are exempt from this requirement, infringe the rights of EU airlines under competition law?