

Question for written answer E-006109/2017/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 130
Claude Rolin (PPE)

Subject: Ryanair flight cancellations

In September 2017, the Irish airline Ryanair decided to cancel 2% of its flights over a six-week period, in other words 2000 flights affecting more than 320 000 passengers, citing a shortage of pilots – either because they were on leave or had left to work for rival airlines – as the reason. Owing to its poor holiday planning, the Irish carrier has been forced to recall pilots, despite the fact that they are entitled to their leave and need to rest. Passenger safety is now being seriously compromised. The airline is finding it ever more difficult to keep to its schedules and offer pilots decent working conditions. Almost all of Ryanair's pilots are self-employed and their income often depends on the number of flights they work, which has an adverse impact on their social rights (paid holidays, maternity leave, etc.).

Does the Commission believe that Ryanair's working conditions are consistent with EU legislation in this area? If not, what steps will it take to ensure that Ryanair's pilots and cabin crew have decent working conditions, and thereby improve passenger safety?