Question for written answer E-002446/2019 to the Commission

Rule 138

Paolo Borchia (ID), Marco Campomenosi (ID), Massimo Casanova (ID) and Lucia Vuolo (ID)

Subject: Ryanair purchase of 135 Boeing 737 MAX

The Boeing 737 MAX aircraft has been temporarily grounded worldwide pending the results of investigations being conducted by international authorities, including the FAA and EASA, seeking to identify the causes of the crashes that cost 346 lives.

EASA investigations have so far identified at least five new safety requirements that Boeing needs to comply with before this type of aircraft is authorised to fly again.

However, it has been reported in the press that the Irish carrier Ryanair has already confirmed an order of at least 135 737 MAX aircraft, in addition to arranging for the denomination of some of these aircraft to be amended from 737 MAX to 737-8200 to prevent their recognition by passengers.

Is it the Commission's view that by amending the aircraft denomination in this way Ryanair would be denying passengers' ability to make an informed travel choice, and that this would thus constitute an infringement of passengers' rights?

Moreover, in the light of the civil aviation safety objectives set out in Regulation 2018/1139, what measures does EASA envisage to ensure that the 135 aircraft purchased by Ryanair before the conclusion of its investigation will comply with the new safety requirements still under development?

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