

**Question for written answer E-003572/2019  
to the Council**  
Rule 138  
**Caroline Nagtegaal** (Renew)

Subject: Proliferation of court cases in the Netherlands due to the failure to review air passenger rights

Courts in the Netherlands are seeing a huge increase in the number of court cases brought against airlines over delayed and cancelled flights, as the Dutch newspaper NRC reported last weekend<sup>1</sup>. Whereas 2016 only 744 were brought, no fewer than 8 115 have already been brought this year. According to the aviation industry, this sharp increase in the number of cases is due to claims management companies assisting passengers in this type of case. The European Court of Auditors considers responsibility for the situation to lie with national enforcement authorities, which, it says, allow claims management companies too much room for manoeuvre.

In September, the Finnish Presidency announced that it would again place a review of air passenger rights on the agenda<sup>2</sup>. If the rules were improved and clarified, that could put an end to the proliferation of court cases concerning the subject.

1. What is the Council's assessment of the massive increase in the number of court cases concerning delayed and cancelled flights in the Netherlands?
2. How will the Finnish Presidency place a review of air passenger rights on the agenda again?
3. Can the Council indicate a timeline for the steps that will be taken to actually review air passenger rights?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2019/10/27/vertraagde-vlucht-op-naar-de-rechter-a3978173?utm\\_source=social&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=twitter&utm\\_term=20191027](https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2019/10/27/vertraagde-vlucht-op-naar-de-rechter-a3978173?utm_source=social&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=twitter&utm_term=20191027)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190724IPR57853/finnish-presidency-outlines-priorities-to-ep-committees>