

**Question for written answer E-003228/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Luděk Niedermayer (PPE)**

**Subject:** Indirect public support to ultra low-cost carriers (ULCCs)

It is widely known that ULCCs (Ryanair, WizzAir, EasyJet) offer a significant proportion of their tickets at extremely low prices, which may be attractive to customers but may also distort the market environment in air transport. They are likely able to offer these extremely low prices because they are able to force small airports to offer their facilities virtually for free, i.e. without paying the airport charges that other airlines at larger airports have to pay and thus have to pass on in their ticket prices. The consequence is that these smaller airports are often subsidised from public budgets and that ULCCs are thus actually being indirectly subsidised.

1. Is the Commission aware of this problem in terms of possible distortion of the level playing field in the EU air transport market?
2. Does the Commission intend to adopt any measures to prevent non-payment of airport charges from leading to a hidden subsidisation of ULCCs from public budgets?
3. Does the Commission consider that the above practice constitutes illegal public aid contrary to or in circumvention of EU law?