

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0224/01
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to the Council

Subject: Economy class syndrome

There have been frequent media reports concerning what is known as 'economy class syndrome'. Yet it would seem that there are far more deaths from this syndrome than the media reports would suggest.

The syndrome consists of the formation of blood clots in the legs or hips during flights longer than two hours. Because passengers are immobile, these clots can reach the brain and cause death.

In view of the importance of this issue and the possibility of taking preventive measures to reduce the risk, will the Council say whether it plans to take any action to ensure that European airlines take preventive measures to reduce the health risk to travellers posed by economy class syndrome?