

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2776/08  
by István Szent-Iványi (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Difficulties faced by Macedonian airline companies in operating flights to Greek airports

By its decision communicated in April 2008, the Civil Aviation Authority of Greece refused to grant permission to a Macedonian airline company (MAT – Macedonian Airlines) to operate charter flights to the airport of Corfu (CFU) in the months of June, July and August 2008 under the name of 'MAT – Macedonian Airlines'. The decision of the Civil Aviation Authority cites the name of the airline company as the sole reason for its refusal.

The bilateral differences with Greece over the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia are well known, but in this case it seems that the Greek authorities are using the name dispute as a pretext for discriminating against a legitimate company based in a European Union candidate country.

Is the European Commission aware of the action of the Civil Aviation Authority of Greece vis-à-vis MAT – Macedonian Airlines? In the view of the European Commission, is this practice in line with the letter and spirit of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement concluded between the Republic of Macedonia, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part? Is the European Commission considering appropriate action to remedy the situation?