

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4940/08
by Ruth Hieronymi (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding of European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) today has the following duties:

- to provide expert advice to the EU in drawing up new legislation,
- to implement and monitor safety provisions,
- to certify aviation products (aircraft, engines, equipment) and license undertakings working in the area of development, production and maintenance of aviation products,
- to issue safety authorisations for non-European airlines,
- to carry out data gathering, analysis and research to improve air safety.

The Agency's tasks are constantly being adjusted to meet the challenges of the aviation sector which is growing at an enormous speed. In future the Agency is also expected to play a central role in drawing up provisions governing safety standards for airports and air traffic management systems.

In view of the above, will the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is the EASA's current financial framework sufficient for it to perform its current duties?
2. What financial requirements will result from the transfer of new powers to the EASA over the next few years and how will this funding be secured?
3. Against the background of the ongoing discussions on EASA's current financial model, does it believe that the funding mechanisms should be redesigned or supplemented and have any proposals been made yet for possible alternatives?