

**Question for written answer P-004447/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Emilie Turunen (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Working time for pilots

A recent survey carried out in April 2011 by the Danish Airline Pilots' Association (Dalpa) shows that 82% of Danish airline pilots consider that their working time rules are indefensible and constitute a safety risk, and as many as nine out of ten say they have made mistakes in the cockpit as a direct consequence of fatigue. Just under half also say they have slept in the cockpit without prior agreement with the co-pilot. Nearly as many – 43% – say they have been involved in incidents or near-incidents owing to tiredness.

The survey was sent to 1013 Dalpa members, and 575 pilots (57%) answered the questions. The pilots work for Ryanair, SAS, Cimber Sterling, Norwegian, Thomas Cook Airlines and EasyJet, and a number of pilots state that competition between the airlines is so fierce that pilots are regularly required to work 10-12 hours a day several days in succession. Furthermore, the duty roster often includes both morning and evening shifts, which means that they do not get regular sleep. The Danish study thus confirms what the Moebus report<sup>1</sup> concluded in 2008, namely that the existing working time rules for pilots are a problem for flight safety.

In 2009 the Commission set in motion measures to review working time regulations for pilots. This led to the issuing by the European Air Safety Agency (EASA) on 20 December 2010 of a discussion document on 'implementing rules on Flight and Duty Time Limitations and rest requirements for commercial air transport (CAT) with aeroplanes'. (NPA 2010-14). The discussion stage ended on 20 March 2011.

1. When does the Commission expect to receive the final proposal from EASA for an amendment to the legislation in this area?
2. In the light of the above-mentioned Danish survey, and the alarming statements about flight safety by the Danish pilots, will the Commission take the initiative of speeding up work and proposing amendments to legislation on rest time for pilots?
3. In an earlier answer of 23 November 2009 to MEPs' questions (E-4996/2009, E-5047/2009, E-5080/2009, E-5304/2009 and E-5144/2009) on pilot fatigue, the Commission said it had asked EASA to speed up its work on pilots' working time. How, specifically, does the Commission envisage speeding up this work, and when may a concrete legislative proposal be expected from the Commission?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.balpa.org/getattachment/2310fdc7-d7d9-4c38-931c-fb9513a9e790/FTL-Moebus-Aviation-Study-Report-2009-01-22.aspx>