

**Question for written answer P-011515/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Trevor Colman (NI)**

Subject: Implementing rules on flight and duty time limitations and rest requirements

Can the Commission advise me as to why, when Parliament insisted in 2006 that EU rules on flight time limitations (FTL) could only be set at a minimum level, allowing Member States to maintain or adopt stricter safety standards if they so wished, this will no longer be possible under the new EU rules?

The current 'non-regression' principle, enshrined in today's legislation, has enabled several countries to strive for higher safety levels than prescribed by the EU. This will no longer be possible under the new EU rules. Countries will be forced to adopt the same regulations, even when they are weaker than those currently in place, as is the case in the UK.

Would the Commission share my opinion that the EU should enable Member States to supplement the EU-wide rules with 'safety enhancements' in those areas where there would otherwise be reductions in safety standards or where the Member State would like to see enhanced protection?

Failing this, the UK Civil Aviation Authority's CAP 371 'The Avoidance of Fatigue In Aircrews' should be used as a guideline for the proposed amending regulation.