

**Question for written answer P-003397/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ismail Ertug (S&D)

Subject: Danger of plane crashes caused by wakes

On 7 January 2017 an accident occurred over the Arabian Sea in which a Challenger 604 business jet experienced a severe emergency caused by the wake of an Airbus A380-800^{1 2}.

Flying at a regular cruising altitude of 35 000 feet, the small plane got out of control, was turned upside down, and dropped by 10 000 feet before the pilot was able to regain control and safely land the jet. Several people were injured and the Challenger jet was damaged beyond repair.

The vertical distance between the two planes was 300 meters – a distance that is considered safe by ICAO.

In the light of this accident and given that there are dozens of A380s in the skies over Europe:

1. Does the Commission have any knowledge of similar incidents or of incidents related to the wakes of larger airplanes over Europe?
2. As experts consider it possible that wake of the A380 dropped more than 300 meters to hit the small plane, how does the Commission evaluate the recommended vertical distance of 300 meters?
3. Would it not be appropriate to revert to a vertical distance of 600 meters in order to ensure travel safety? Could special corridors for larger planes be a solution?

¹ <http://avherald.com/h?article=4a5e80f3>

² <http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/technik/airbus-luftwirbel-brachten-anderes-flugzeug-fast-zum-absturz-a-1147975.html>