

**Question for written answer P-004454/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Rina Ronja Kari (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Promotion of Ryanair by Commissioner Violeta Bulc

On 30 May 2017, Commissioner Violeta Bulc advertised in a tweet: 'Youth it is time to explore #EU ! @Ryanair will offer fare discounts and travel benefits for #Erasmus students'¹².

On 23 May 2017 the Commissioner also promoted Ryanair's discount scheme for Erasmus students in a joint press release with Michael O'Leary, head of Ryanair, in which the Commissioner said: 'These discounts will help students broaden their horizons, and learn first-hand about the richness, diversity and beauty of our wonderful continent! This partnership between one of the largest European airlines and one of the largest exchange student organisations is something I hope other transport providers will be inspired to follow. I would like to thank Ryanair for launching such an initiative'¹³.

How, in the Commission's view, is it compatible with its role as a politically independent executive for it to advertise for an individual private undertaking and its products or services?

How, in the Commission's view, is the promotion of Ryanair compatible with the Juncker Commission's stated priorities of combating social dumping and tax evasion and tax avoidance by businesses?

¹ <http://bit.ly/2rA4LGW>

² https://twitter.com/Bulc_EU/status/869503694857007104

³ <http://corporate.ryanair.com/news/ryanair-to-partner-erasmus-student-network/?market=fi>