

**Question for written answer E-015577/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

Subject: EU aviation strategy, comprehensive aviation agreement with third countries and new guidelines for ownership and control rules, in particular as regards 'effective control' (Article 4(f) of Regulation (EC) 1008/2008)

At the meeting of the Committee on Transport and Tourism on 7 December 2015, Commissioner Bulc announced that comprehensive agreements will be based on reciprocity, level playing field and transparency. Moreover, she announced new guidelines designed to make ownership and control rules clearer.

The Commission insists that the EU needs foreign investments, but it must not forget that third-country carriers need Europeans – over 500 million potential clients – to fly to Asia.

The Commission is asked to provide precise and detailed answer to the following three questions:

1. Will it prioritise comprehensive agreements with Gulf carriers before agreements with carriers from other Asian countries?
2. Will the comprehensive agreement ask for transparency in third-country budget accounts, especially with regards to State aid and potential subsidies¹, and, moreover, will it envisage suspending or limiting traffic rights if transparency is not guaranteed?
3. Can it state whether these new guidelines will be available in 2016, and, if so, when, and can it specify what elements of the 'effective control' envisaged by Article 4(f) of Regulation (EC) 1008/2008 they will modify if the 49 % limit stays in place?²

¹ <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/807f88e4-9cf5-11e5-8ce1-f6219b685d74.html?ftcamp=crm/email/2015128/nbe/CompaniesBySector/product#axzz3toTsOybU>.

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:293:0003:0020:en:PDF>.