

**Question for written answer E-015345/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz (PPE)

Subject: Delays at EU airports

On 10 November 2015, aircraft did not take off from Budapest airport because of a problem with the IT system. This meant that passengers arrived at their destinations up to half a day late. There was a similar incident in 2012 when a heating pipe under the control tower ruptured. The operator claimed that it was a case of vis major and did not pay any compensation. It even stated that passengers were in a contractual relationship with the airline and not with the airport. It was in 2005 that the provisions whereby airlines must pay compensation to passengers in the event of flight delays, cancellations or overbookings came into force in the EU. According to the airport operator, passengers are still unlikely to receive any compensation. If an aircraft is delayed through the fault of the airline, it is the airline which pays compensation to the passenger. In this case, however, since flights were delayed through the fault of the airport, it is the airport which should pay. However, the current compensation system in the EU penalises only the airlines. There is no obligation for airports and air traffic control to provide compensation.

In the light of the above, I would like to ask the Commission whether, in the event of similar incidents, it intends to adopt new regulations to provide redress in cases of flight delays or cancellations which are the fault of airports or air traffic control?

When reviewing the Aviation Package, will the Commission take into account these kinds of delays, and does it intend to regulate, by means of legislation at EU level, the fulfilment by airports of their commitments and, where necessary, penalise them?