

**Question for written answer E-002789/2024
to the Council**
Rule 144
Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR)

Subject: Measures to restrict access to EU airspace from Russian airspace

Following the start of Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, the use of Russian airspace by European airlines has largely stopped. Only four European carriers – Air Serbia, Turkish Airlines, Pegasus Airlines and Belavia – are still operating in Russian airspace due to their diplomatic ties with Russia.

It should be underlined that Russia continuously profits from collecting fees from the airlines operating in its airspace. Every possible measure should be taken to restrict Russia's ability to wage its imperialistic war of annihilation.

Of all countries, China has the largest number of airlines using Russian airspace. In addition to funding the Russian war machine, China's continued operation in Russian airspace creates an unfair market situation for European airlines, such as Finnair, by hampering competition for passenger flights to Asia. It is extremely hard for European operators to compete against airlines that can use a far faster and thus cheaper route.

In light of the above:

What concrete measures can be taken to restrict airlines from entering EU airspace from Russian airspace, to strike a blow at Russia's funding for its war machine and help secure a more level playing field for European operators?

Submitted: 5.12.2024