

**Question for written answer E-004142/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: High airfares and possible cartel practices in the aviation sector

Caught between the aviation sector's rhetoric, which claims that the EU's environmental regulation imposed an additional EUR 15 billion in costs on air transport in 2024 – a figure expected to double by 2030¹ – and the Commission's scrutiny on mergers and possible abusive practices in the sector, EU passengers continue to face very high airfares².

The EU also seems to lead the global delay ranking. One in three air passengers in the EU has been affected by delays and flight cancellations³.

Meanwhile, the European Parliament is working on a revision of the common rules on compensation and assistance for passengers and an amendment of Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability.

In this context, could the Commission clarify:

1. The outcome of its 2023⁴ investigations into high flight prices and whether it is considering a study on unfair commercial practices (UCP) in aviation, particularly cartel behaviour.
2. If it can provide an updated list of ongoing UCP investigations, similar to the annex to the study⁵ published in 2020.
3. How it will ensure that the revision of passenger rights delivers concrete and enforceable improvements for EU travellers.

Supporters⁶

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¹ <https://a4e.eu/publications/new-study-reveals-regulatory-costs-for-eu-airlines-soar-by-e15-5-billion-in-a-decade-threatening-competitiveness-and-connectivity-across-europe/>.

² <https://www.avionews.it/item/1254738-expensive-flights-brussels-launches-investigation.html>.

³ <https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/travel-chaos-continues-in-europe-with-dozens-of-new-cancelled-flights-by-norwegian-air-sweden-finnair-and-wizz-air-affecting-passengers-in-brussels-oslo-helsinki-copenhagen-vienna-and-more/>.

⁴ <https://www.avionews.it/item/1254738-expensive-flights-brussels-launches-investigation.html>.

⁵ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/642381/IPOL_STU\(2020\)642381_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/642381/IPOL_STU(2020)642381_EN.pdf).

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