

**Question for written answer E-001491/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** The impact of coronavirus on aviation and the rules governing slot allocation

The coronavirus outbreak is causing a significant fall in demand for air travel. A number of airlines have decided to suspend and cancel operations, to leave part of the fleet on the ground and to stand down crews so as to deal with the outbreak and protect passengers and crews.

It will take airline operations several months to get back to normal and operational flexibility will be needed. A number of airlines are running 'phantom flights' to ensure they retain slots in accordance with the 80/20 Rule, with all the environmental and economic consequences that entails. If airlines fail to use 80% of the slots allocated to them, they risk losing them, under Regulation (EEC) No. 95/93, which dates from 1993.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Is it aware that airlines are operating empty flights so as not to lose their slots at major European airports?
2. Is it prepared to grant a derogation from the 80/20 slot rule, as provided for in Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 95/93, as an immediate and temporary measure, bearing in mind that other derogations have been applied at different periods that were deemed exceptional?
3. What other measures will the Commission take in the medium and long term to deal with these exceptional circumstances?