


FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
COMMISSION

| ORAL QUESTIONS | WRITTEN QUESTIONS |
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| Oral Question with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/> | Written Question (Rule 117) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Question Time (Rule 116) <input type="checkbox"/> | Priority Written Question (Rule 117 (4)) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| AUTHOR(S): Reinhard Buetikofer (Greens/EFA) | |
| SUBJECT: Knowledge gap concerning volcanic ash (please specify) | |
| <p>TEXT:</p> <p>The eruption of the volcano Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland led to a four-day standstill of the European aviation industry, hurting European economies and significantly impacting on people's travel arrangements. The decision to close large parts of the European airspace was particularly contested, with several important European airlines expressing doubts surrounding the no-fly ban. However, what this event and ensuing debate concerning the closure of the airspace particularly demonstrated was the lack of knowledge concerning volcanic ash, its consequences and dangers. In this context, these research and development gaps need to be tackled in order to promote better understanding and better policy-responses to any future scenarios.</p> <p>As such, I would like to pose the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What lessons has the European Commission drawn from the volcanic ash incident, particularly with regards to its R&D policy? • How can the Commission ensure that overlapping research fields, such as volcanology, meteorology and aeronautics better co-ordinate their research and outputs, particularly to the benefit of EU policy-making? • How can the research and knowledge gaps be identified and closed? Is the Commission planning any studies with regards to volcanic ash, its potential dangers and particularly what levels of volcanic ash are problematic? Is the Commission co-operating with the aeronautical and manufacturing sector in this regard? • How does the Commission plan to safeguard the continuity of regular measurements and data collection by weather stations and ensure that deficits in this area are overcome? | |
| Signature(s): | Date: 03.05.2010 |
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