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Today we know better than a week ago that jet-free skies cost a lot. Costs to airlines go beyond lost revenues. Other industries are affected but there are also industries benefitting from the situation. What matters is also the fact that this new disaster hit already very fragile European economies facing the need of fiscal consolidation.

I would like to address two issues:

First, the state aid issue. Offering airlines state aid in compensation for the losses has a precedence in the bail-out offered to American airlines after 9/11. The European Commission offers fast track procedures to the state aid - which is appreciated. But my question to the Commission is whether we know the expected size of this new burden for national budgets already suffering from huge deficits and debts and working on fiscal consolidation. Is, indeed, the state aid through national budgets the best solution? Are there any other options being considered by the Commission?

Second, the issue of European Union capacity to manage crises. We hear that during first days there was no consultation or coordination among relevant national authorities in a situation covering 80% European air space. One can be totally independent and still coordinate. We might hear soon that coordination from day one would have allowed to design and implement better solutions. There is also the open question - still to be answered - of the proportionality of restrictions and the basis for decisions made.

In my view, this is the moment to move forward on European Union crisis management. We clearly see that disasters that affect our citizens can occur also

outside the European Union's territory, in the European Economic Area or even outside the European Economic Area.

So, my question to the European Commission is how you will use this disaster to enhance the EU crisis management capacity. We, in the European Parliament, will support all your efforts to make us more effective and efficient in crisis management.