

## EU rules could 'put pilots at risk of dozing off in the cockpit while flying passenger planes'

- Pilots could be forced to land commercial jets after 22 hours awake

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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Pilots will be at greater risk of dozing off in the cockpit of packed passenger planes because of new EU rules on flying hours, say MPs.

They warn that the risk of crashes could increase under the plans, which mean pilots could be landing commercial jets after 22 hours awake.

Forty-three per cent of pilots already report nodding off in-flight, of whom 31 per cent awoke to find their co-pilot also asleep, the Commons transport select committee notes in a report.



Nodding off: Forty-three per cent of pilots already report falling asleep in-flight

MPs are concerned about plans by the European Aviation Safety Agency to ‘harmonise’ limits on pilots’ hours across the EU.

The British Airline Pilots’ Association told the committee that the details of the EASA work and rest timetables mean that from setting off to work to finishing their shifts pilots could have been awake for 22 hours.

The MPs’ report says: ‘This is an extraordinary figure considering that even 17 hours of sustained wakefulness can produce performance deficits equivalent to that displayed when drunk.’

The committee says it is concerned that ‘the new regulations are setting a standard that accepts a higher level of fatigue more generally and, if not managed properly, that could well lead to a situation where the accident risk will increase’.



Warning: The British Airline Pilots told the committee that under the new plans pilots could have to stay awake for 22 hours