

# Markus Tressel MdB

Tourism policy spokesman  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Motion: To improve cabin air in aircraft**

**Evidence of contaminated cabin air incidents on board aircraft has recently been increasing. In the worst cases incidents can cause Parkinson's-like symptoms. The cause, among other things, is the way aircraft are engineered. "Fresh air" for the cabin (known as "bleed air") is drawn from the engines. Nothing is being done to prevent the problem. The industry is being evasive, airlines are playing down the issue and the government is hopelessly out of its depth and is heavily influenced by lobbyists.**

"That's why we have formulated a motion. The government has to drop its passive attitude", said Markus Tressel, the tourism policy spokesman for the Alliance 90/The Greens party,.

"Cases of pilots complaining of dizziness and numbness, and flight attendants who have to be treated in hospital can no longer be covered up", said Tressel, referring to a report in the news magazine *Der Spiegel* on 31st October 2011. He has been concerned with the issue of Aerotoxic syndrome for some time and is familiar with the problems. "It's becoming clear that the government has completely lost track of what's going on! It knows little or nothing about cases that are occurring and that do not get penalised for going unreported. It knows too little about international studies and even plays down the well-known issue of non-reporting by airlines. And worst of all, it doesn't even know where to get involved politically. With its current level of expertise it would make an absolute fool of itself in international circles!"

Meanwhile airlines declare that the health and safety of staff and passengers is their top priority. Mark Tressel disagrees: "A number of papers available to us indicate otherwise."

As a result, in their motion the Greens are calling for, amongst other things, oils that contain no neurotoxins, the fitting of filters and warning systems in aircraft, stronger action against violating airlines, and finally a government that is committed to health and flight safety. The only thing that will really help in the long term is if the manufacturers move away from bleed air technology. The Ram air system used on the Boeing Dreamliner (787) demonstrates the principle, in that the air no longer comes from the engines.

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### *Parliamentary Initiatives*

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(All initiated by Alliance 90/The Greens)

- Motion: BT-Drs. 17/7480
- Written questions: Nr. 241-243/ October 2011
- Written questions: Nr. 441-444/ September 2011
- Expert hearing, 21.09.2011
- Oral Question (BT-Drs. 17/5155), Government response (BT-Drs. 17/5371)
- Written questions: Nr 160/ January 2011, Nr. 59 and 87/ October 2010
- Oral Question (BT-Drs. 17/2916), Government response (BT-Drs. 17/3105)
- Question to the Science Service (21.05.2010)
- Government Tourism Committee report, 21.04.2010,
  - o submitted in writing only
  - o with notification that a verbal report would follow at the beginning of 2011
  - o no responses
- Oral Question (BT-Drs. 16/12388), Government response (BT-Drs. 16/12578)
- Oral Question (BT-Drs. 16/12023), Government response (BT-Drs. 16/12179)

Need further information? The answers to the parliamentary questions as well as the additional references above are available on request from:

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