

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC  
Form 6-K  
October 02, 2008

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 6-K**

**Report of Foreign Private Issuer**

**Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the month of October 2008

**RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC**  
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

**c/o Ryanair Ltd Corporate Head Office**  
**Dublin Airport**  
**County Dublin Ireland**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F..X.. Form 40-F.....

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes ..... No ..X..

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- \_\_\_\_\_

**RYANAIR  
LAUNCHES  
STATE  
AID COMPLAINT AGAINST LATEST  
UNLAWFUL ALITALIA BAILOUT**

Ryanair, Europe's largest low fares airline, today (Thursday, 2nd

October, 2008) announced that it had submitted a formal complaint to the EU Commission regarding the latest unlawful bailout of the failed Italian national carrier, Alitalia.

Ryanair's action comes after the Italian Government announced that it had reached agreement with Alitalia's unions regarding an offer made by a consortium of Italian investors (CAI). The deal calls for another farcical

renaming of Alitalia and writing off between €1.2 and €2bln worth of its debt in order to secure investors

Ryanair has previously submitted several complaints against Alitalia and other flag carrier airlines, including Olympic, Air France and Lufthansa, against which the EU Commission has taken no action. Ryanair highlighted that this ongoing unlawful protection of flag carriers by their member state governments, which amounts to billions of euro, increasingly makes a mockery of the EU Commission's enforcement of the state aid rules.

Announcing the complaint

Ryanair's Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Jim Callaghan, said:

*"This is the latest and perhaps most blatant example of the Italian Government doing whatever it takes to protect their failed airline, Alitalia*

*. It is also the second time that they have used the trick of simply shifting debt out of the airline and into a subsidiary in order to keep the airline afloat. In this instance, the Italian government is writing off up to €2bln. in Alitalia debts and is guaranteeing the investments by the members of the consortium and underwriting huge concessions to the unions in exchange for their agreement to these ludicrous plans.*

*"However, despite the blatant nature of the Italian Government's breaches of the EU state aid rules, we have no doubt that the EU Commission will again rubber stamp this unlawful bailout, as they did 3 years ago and more recently in a similar case involving Olympic. In such case, Ryanair will appeal this decision to the European courts to expose the corrupt and biased application by the Commission of its own state aid rules.*

*"Ryanair has already been forced to take several cases*

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

*against the Commission for its failure to take action against other blatant breaches of the state aid rules by member state governments to protect and bail out their inefficient flag carriers. These repeated failures by the Commission are contributing to a massively distorted playing field in European aviation*

*"Ryanair will continue to expose the biased and corrupt application of the state aid rules by the European Commission to ensure that economically and environmentally unsustainable airlines like Alitalia and Olympic Airways are forced to exit the market - which is what is supposed to happen in a free market"*

Ends.

Thursday, 2  
nd

October 2008

**For further information:**

**Stephen McNamara**

**Pauline McAlester**  
**Ryanair**

**Murray Consultants**  
**Tel: 00 353 1 812 1271**

**Tel: 00 353 1 4980 300**

### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC

Date: 02 October 2008

By:\_\_\_/s/ James Callaghan\_\_\_

James Callaghan  
Company Secretary & Finance Director