Question for written answer E-001745/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Privatisation of AENA and European state aid

Spain received over EUR 685 million for airports of the State-owned AENA network from the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund between 2000 and 2013.

The aid received was used among other things to expand facilities, car parks and commercial areas and to improve security. The beneficiaries were publicly-owned airports which are now to be privatised by the Spanish Government and, as a result, some of these airports which were financed with EU state funds will be passing into the hands of private investors.

Given that the EU objectives to support the socioeconomic and territorial cohesion of a country whose mountainous terrain has historically restricted land communications were central to justifying the European aid, the following questions arise:

Has the Spanish Government made the Commission aware of its intention to privatise an organisation which has benefited from significant European state funding?

In view of the privatisation of AENA, how does the Commission plan to protect the objectives of the economic and territorial cohesion of EU-funded projects, which may now be jeopardised by the introduction of criteria based purely on economic profitability?

Does the Commission consider that the change of public ownership and the failure to abide by the objectives of the projects funded may lead to a re-examination of the aid granted?