

**Question for written answer E-001070/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Lack of resources for air traffic control

A report published recently¹ suggests that Spain does not have enough air traffic controllers. This is partly due to the rising costs of training, which, so the report says, can be as high as EUR 75 000 per person following the privatisation of part of the public authority responsible for air traffic control, which includes the department that provides training for future air traffic controllers. This lack of staffing has also had an effect on public health, as the government has passed a decree² suspending, or placing very strict limits on, flights linked to organ transplants or medical emergencies outside the operating hours of at least 10 airports all over Spain. In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission take the view that – since Spain is the only Member State in which air traffic control training has been privatised – Spanish air traffic controllers are at a disadvantage vis-à-vis their colleagues elsewhere in Europe?
2. What impact does the Commission think this lack of resources could have on aviation safety in Spain?
3. Is the Commission intending to ask the relevant authorities about the impact that restricting out-of-hours flights will have on public health in Spain?

¹ <http://www.elmundo.es/economia/2018/02/19/5a7adde4468aeb52408b462f.html>

² https://www.tourinews.es/resumen-de-prensa/notas-de-prensa-espana-turismo/aena-pone-en-peligro-el-trasplante-de-organos-fuera-de-horario_4446136_102.html