

**Question for written answer E-001787/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE)

Subject: Public Service Obligations: scheduled air services between the mainland and Madeira

After ending the public service obligations it had imposed on routes between Madeira and the Portuguese mainland, the Portuguese government, in order to bring benefits in terms of the cost of air fares, set the amount of the subsidy to be granted by the State to beneficiaries of the social mobility subsidy scheme on these routes, in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008.

It should be noted that the air fares charged by TAP - whose largest shareholder is the Portuguese State - between Madeira and the mainland are steadily rising. This does not correspond to the objectives of the aforementioned Regulation, namely to ensure stable air fares, since they are much higher than the fares charged for travel between Portugal and another Member State. What is at stake here is the principle of territorial continuity, a constitutional principle underpinning links with the Portuguese autonomous regions, which is being flouted by the Portuguese State.

- Will the Commission act on this issue, taking into account Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008, and analyse the reasons for the high fares charged by TAP - whose largest shareholder is the Portuguese State - which operates flights between Madeira and the mainland?
- Will the Commission initiate infringement proceedings against the Portuguese government for failing to comply with the public service obligations, thereby undermining the application of the principle of territorial continuity?