

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2340/05
by Antonio López-Istúriz White (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Rise in airfares for inter-island flights in Spain

The Spanish Government Minister for Public Works has decided, unilaterally and without prior consultation of the Balearic Government, to increase airfares for flights between the Balearic Isles.

Under the 'public service' declaration, the upper limit on airline fares is regulated by the Autonomous and Central Governments to prevent arbitrary price rises in the sector. The alteration announced by the Ministry of Public Works disregards the Autonomous Government's regulatory responsibility, leaving the final authorisation of price rises solely in the hands of the Spanish Government.

The people of the Balearic Isles are faced with higher daily travel costs, for business and leisure trips, than their mainland compatriots, as they are obliged, for the most part, to travel by air or by sea.

Does the Commission support the actions of the Spanish Minister for Public Works? Does it consider that this measure is compatible with the Union's criteria concerning the need to boost the development of the most geographically isolated regions, particularly islands?