

**Question for written answer E-005889/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Connectivity issues in the Balearic Islands, Spain

Connectivity remains an issue in the Balearic Islands, especially in Menorca. The public service obligation (PSO) is meant to offer an optimal service in terms of number, continuity, regularity, capacity and price. Yet since the PSO was declared for flights between the islands and Barcelona and Madrid, it has fallen short of expectations. A PSO is defined as an 'obligation in respect of scheduled air services between an airport in the Community and an airport serving a peripheral or development region in its territory or on a thin route to any airport on its territory, any such route being considered vital for the economic and social development of the region which the airport serves'.

In July 2018, the Spanish Government increased the resident discount from 50% to 75%, according island dwellers a financial benefit, but at the same time penalising non-residents. Moreover, the PSO for Madrid and Barcelona has done nothing to resolve the cost factor since airfares have actually increased.

1. What can the EU do to keep airfares down and ensure optimum flight frequency to and from the islands?
2. Does EU legislation allow a Member State or public authority to nationalise an airline so as to guarantee high service quality?