

**Question for written answer E-003319/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jordi Cañas** (Renew)

**Subject:** Breach of Association Agreement and Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement between the EU and Morocco: maritime and air transport subsidised by Moroccan Government

In light of its decision to select Marseille, Sète (France) and Genoa (Italy) as the only EU ports of embarkation during Operation Marhaba 2021, thereby excluding Spanish ports which were primary transit points until 2019, the Moroccan Government has announced<sup>1</sup> it will provide MAD 4.5 billion (EUR 423.77 million) of financial aid to reduce the price of boat and plane tickets. Shipping companies will receive MAD 2 billion (EUR 188.34 million) and the Royal Air Maroc airline will receive MAD 2.5 billion (EUR 235.43 million).

These subsidies are being granted to cushion the additional travel costs Moroccans are faced with as a result of the Moroccan Government's decision to boycott Spanish ports during Operation Marhaba 2021 – an act of retaliation against Spain for the diplomatic crisis instigated by Morocco over Western Sahara.

In the light of the above:

Has Morocco informed the Commission of these subsidies?

Does the Commission consider these subsidies to be illegal and/or constitute a practice that runs counter to free competition, thereby violating the Association Agreement and the Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement between the EU and Morocco<sup>2</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://telquel.ma/2021/06/23/la-baisse-des-prix-des-billets-davion-et-de-bateau-pour-les-mre-couter-45-milliards-de-dirhams-a-letat\\_1726596](https://telquel.ma/2021/06/23/la-baisse-des-prix-des-billets-davion-et-de-bateau-pour-les-mre-couter-45-milliards-de-dirhams-a-letat_1726596), <https://www.bladi.net/cout-retours-mre-maroc,83977.html>, <https://www.air-journal.fr/2021-06-24-une-aide-publique-pour-royal-air-maroc-5228695.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02006A1229\(04\)-20120618&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02006A1229(04)-20120618&from=EN)