

**Question for written answer E-000603/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Request for a reply to question E-003319/2021 and the damaging border closure by Morocco

The Commission reply of 13 September 2021 to question E-003319/2021 on the possible infringement of the EU-Morocco Association and Aviation Agreements as a result of Moroccan subsidies to reduce the price of boat and air tickets was unsatisfactory.

In this connection, the Moroccan Government has announced the reopening of its airspace to international traffic, but is keeping the land borders with Ceuta and Melilla and its seaports closed to passenger traffic, as it did under Operation Marhaba 2021.

This has a devastating impact on European ports and forms part of the Moroccan Government's strategy of strangling the economies of the Spanish and European cities of Ceuta and Melilla, which are already suffering the severe economic consequences of the continued unilateral closure of the land borders by Morocco since the beginning of 2020. This situation shows how Morocco takes advantage of its status as a privileged partner of the EU while using blackmail with impunity in its relations with Member States such as Spain.

In light of the above, I should like to reiterate the points made in question E-003319/2021 and ask the following additional questions:

What measures does the Commission intend to take to put an end to Morocco's illegal practices?

In the context of the EU's relations with Morocco, will the Commission demand a reopening of the ports?