

**Question for written answer E-001042/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jordi Solé** (Verts/ALE), **Diana Riba i Giner** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Declaration of a public service obligation for air transport between Menorca and Barcelona-Valencia

Air links connecting the island of Menorca with Barcelona and Valencia, the most important cities on Spain's Mediterranean coast, are totally inadequate. This is a matter of serious concern for the island's population, which has been calling for over 20 years now for a solution to the inadequate and costly air transport options currently available. Flights to El Prat account for 55 % of domestic traffic, while the figure for the other route falls to 5 % owing to the dearth of flights on offer, and their very high prices.

The current system of granting residents a 75 % subsidy within an open market regime, combined with the de facto monopoly of the airline Vueling, results in unfair fares during peak demand times. This places an unsustainable burden on the non-resident population, in addition to its other effects. Constant changes to the times and frequency of flights together with discretionary cancellations make the situation worse.

The only possible answer lies with EU rules providing for a public service obligation (PSO) to be declared on routes where geographical factors, economic and social development ones or market dominance make this necessary.

Based on the information provided, does the Commission consider the PSO declaration appropriate for the Barcelona-Menorca and Valencia-Menorca routes?