

**Question for written answer E-001043/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: *De minimis* exemption on aid to mitigate the insularity of the Balearic Islands

Spain's Royal Decree-Law 4/2019 on Special Arrangements for the Balearic Islands acknowledges that islands face a set of drawbacks such as higher costs for the public and companies and the provision of public goods, fewer opportunities for economies of scale, imbalances in free competition on the markets and great vulnerability to external shocks.

It also stipulates that the government will ask the Commission to amend Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 to raise the cap of EUR 200 000 on *de minimis* aid. It further states that it will request authorisation to exclude subsidies for air and maritime freight transport, as provided for in Article 11, from the scope of the aforementioned regulation.

The justification for these requests is that this aid does not distort competition, but rather restores a level playing field for island companies to compete against their mainland counterpart.

1. Has Spain made the requests set out in points 1 and 2 of the first transitional provision of Royal Decree-Law No 4/2019 of 22 February 2019 on Special Arrangements for the Balearic Islands?
2. If so, what was the Commission's response?