Question for written answer E-002502/2022

to the Commission

Rule 138

João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)

Subject: Chaos in airports this summer

The beginning of summer has revealed the consequences of policies taken in the European aviation sector during the pandemic which led to the dismissal of 7 million direct and indirect employees together with a generalised lack of operational capacity in various areas – ground handling, cabin crew, maintenance, air traffic control, among others – to meet the expected increase in operations.

We have seen wall-to-wall chaos in airports, with endless waiting times, limited services – such as support for passengers with reduced mobility – and thousands of flights delayed and cancelled. Airlines have announced flight cancellations: 10 000 from EasyJet, 3 000 from Lufthansa, 700 from Brussels Airlines, etc.

The current state of affairs, affecting millions of passengers, is inseparable from the EU’s policies of liberalising the aviation sector, making labour relations more precarious, favouring low-cost airlines or imposing so-called restructuring plans, such as the one imposed on TAP, involving thousands of redundancies.

1. What view does the Commission take of this situation and of the responsibilities of EU policy in this process?

2. What measures does it intend to propose to address the existing problems and increase employment, whilst safeguarding the job security and rights of workers in this sector?

3. Does it intend to do away with the conditions it has imposed as part of restructuring plans, which are aggravating the sector’s difficulties rather than resolving them?