

**Question for written answer E-003895/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Aid for the transport of goods to and from Ceuta and Melilla by sea and air

The Spanish autonomous cities of Melilla and Ceuta are located outside of the Iberian peninsula. This, combined with their small size and scarcity of resources, creates a situation in which the level of imbalance in these cities is on a par with that of island and outermost regions. In recognition of the ensuing difficulties which these cities face, reflected in the structural cost overruns resulting from their location outside of the Iberian peninsula, Law 3/2017 of 27 June 2017 on the General State Budgets for 2017 establishes 'an open-ended system of compensation aimed at reducing the actual cost of transporting goods by air and sea between the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla and peninsular Spain, as well as between both autonomous cities and other EU territories or signatories of the EEA Agreement'.

In light of the insularity of these autonomous cities, recognised as southern borders of the EU, and the major socioeconomic inequalities afflicting them:

Is there any legal impediment on the Commission's side preventing Spain from subsidising the total cost of the sea crossing between the nearest ports on the peninsular to Ceuta (Algeciras) and Melilla (Málaga, Almería or Motril) carried out by EU liner operators and transporting vital food products sourced in the EU?

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