

**Question for written answer E-003328/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Request for information on Sicilian territorial continuity and the investigation into expensive flights

After the services conference on Sicilian territorial continuity between the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, the Region of Sicily, Comiso Municipality Council and the company SAC, which runs Catania and Comiso airports, and following the decree issued by the relevant ministry, all that remains is for the Commission to confirm that the call for tenders to restore territorial continuity – by means of daily flights from Rome and Milan, at controlled prices – can be published. Furthermore, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport has announced the initiative will begin in March 2024.

Regarding air fares in Europe, it was reported that the Commission launched an investigation into their increase across Europe, showing a 30 % rise during the summer, which has led to exceptional profits for airlines. Commissioner Adina Vălean stated that she was 'still investigating' in order to obtain 'a full, detailed explanation' about the situation, but that the Commission did not intend to intervene in a market that it considers to be 'functioning'¹.

Given the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm the actual timeline for the approval and implementation of territorial continuity for Sicily and let us know whether any concerns have been raised or any obstacles have arisen?
2. Can it share further information on the survey conducted on the increase in air fares in Europe, including the objectives and expected results?

Submitted: 9.11.2023

¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/34e2ae4e-2172-4f70-8b0f-30d77a2e8c51>