

ORAL QUESTION H-0978/06  
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2006  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Antonio López-Istúriz White  
to the Commission

Subject: Equal reductions on air and sea fares for non-Community residents of the Balearics

Royal Decree 1316/2001 regulates the discounts given to residents of the autonomous communities of the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands on standard fares in air and sea transport (43% discount on the price of tickets, rising to 50% in 2007). This measure was introduced to offset the disadvantages associated with islands.

The regional government of the Balearics is seeking to extend the right to claim this discount to immigrants resident in the Balearics. It is basing its action on the principle of 'equal obligations - equal rights', since immigrants residing in the islands are obliged to contribute to the public purse but do not enjoy the right to benefit from discounted fares on scheduled air and sea transport services. Achieving a genuine integration policy entails offering non-Community residents the same incentives as those granted to national or Community residents. This will make it possible for these residents to be effectively and genuinely integrated, in a context of solidarity and equality.

Does the Commission believe that the European institutions should be involved in this issue, since it relates to integration policy seen from the point of view of human rights, democracy and the rule of law? Could the Commission oblige or advise the Spanish Government to amend the above decree so as to extend equal rights to all residents, regardless of whether they are nationals of Member States or of non-Community countries?

Tabled: 31.10.2006  
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