

**Priority question for written answer P-002436/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)

Subject: Airbus's secret, illegal participation in the privatisation of TAP

Airbus is one of Europe's biggest companies, and its main shareholders are the French, German and Spanish States.

Airbus was recently (2020) ordered to pay around EUR 3.6 billion in fines in a major corruption case.

In Portugal, the Portuguese Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Political Oversight of the Management of TAP has concluded its work, despite the European Commission's regrettable refusal to answer questions it was asked.

The committee of inquiry uncovered an illegal, unfair scheme in the 2015 TAP privatisation process involving Airbus and the purchase of aircraft worth EUR 6 billion from the company by TAP. The committee concluded that the Portuguese Government should, 'as part of its bilateral relations and participation in European Union bodies, [take action] to have an investigation launched into Airbus's role in the TAP privatisation process in 2015.'

Given that the European Commission did not wish to comment on the circumstances mentioned in written question E-001889/2023, I would like to ask:

1. What steps will the Commission take with regard to the request made by the Portuguese Parliament and Government?
2. Why did the Commission decline to reply to the questions addressed to it in writing by the Portuguese Parliament?

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