

Question for written answer E-003668/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)

Subject: Breach of the internal market and State aid rules in the Air Europa bailout

The Spanish Government's Air Europa bailout, totalling EUR 474 million, amounted to State aid and had repercussions for the European internal air transport market. The decision was taken in a Council of Ministers meeting chaired by the prime minister, whose wife was at the time running a university centre that had concluded sponsorship agreements with Wakalua – which is an innovation hub belonging to the Globalia group, Air Europa's parent company.

Although the Spanish Office for Conflicts of Interest has concluded that there was no obligation to abstain, concerns remain that these circumstances may have compromised the impartiality required for the granting of State aid. Court of Justice case-law requires State aid to be assessed in full transparency and stipulates there can be no sign of a selective advantage arising from the decision-makers' personal or family interests.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that the existence of contractual or sponsorship ties between relatives of a member of the Government and the company benefiting from State aid could amount to a breach of the principles of neutrality and open competition in the internal market?
2. What additional safeguards should the Commission require for this type of bailout?

Submitted: 22.9.2025