Question for written answer E-000083/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Airport noise in Valencia and compliance with Directive 2002/49/EC

Following a complaint from the 'No a la ampliación, sí al traslado' ('No to the expansion, yes to a change in location') campaign group, the European Ombudsman recently concluded that the Commission had committed maladministration by failing to act in case INFR(2016)2118 regarding Spain's failure to comply with Directive 2002/49/EC on environmental noise. In 2024, the Commission acknowledged that, despite reminders, Spain had not submitted the latest strategic noise maps (SNMs), which have been mandatory since 2022.

In 2024, Valencia Airport's SNM Action Plan (Phase 4) was approved. The plan does not establish operational restrictions, despite recognising that there are areas where noise quality targets are not being met and that there are residents who are exposed to higher-than-permitted noise levels. It also notes the lack of quiet areas, the increase in night operations, noise and residents' complaints, and the difficulty of further reducing source noise.

1. When does the Commission intend to conclude case INFR(2016)2118 and what specific action will it take to ensure appropriate noise levels at Valencia Airport?

2. Does the Commission consider the measures set out in the latest action plan for the airport to be sufficient?

3. What justification is there for Valencia's airport traffic increasing every year despite the rules on noise levels being breached?

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