Question for written answer E-001300/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Advertising of airline routes to non-self governing territories

The EU-based airline Ryanair has recently launched an email campaign advertising routes to Dakhla in the non-self governing territory of Western Sahara. The advertisement describes visiting Dakhla as part of a Moroccan adventure and on their website lists the city as 'Morocco's best kept secret'[1]. Several times the advertisement describes Dakhla as Moroccan and makes no reference to Western Sahara or the Sahrawi people.

Dakhla is part of the non-self governing territory of Western Sahara, occupied by Morocco since 1975. The International Court of Justice confirmed[2] that this territory does not belong to Morocco and it is listed on the United Nations list of non-self governing territories[3].

In response to a previous question[4], the Commission informed airlines that the Euro-Mediterranean aviation agreement between the EU and Morocco does not apply to Western Sahara. However, Ryanair are still engaging in practices designed to deceive EU consumers.

Will the Commission:

1. Instruct airlines to not advertise a destination as belonging to an occupying power, thereby erasing the presence of the indigenous people?

2. Instruct Ryanair to cease these deceptive advertising practices?

3. Issue guidance for airlines operating in the EU regarding their obligations in respect of non-self governing territories?

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1 https://www.ryanair.com/ie/en/lp/explore/morocco.
2 https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/61/061-19751016-ADV-01-00-EN.pdf.
3 https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/nsgt.
4 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002585_EN.html.