Question for written answer E-002076/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Nora Junco García (ECR), Diego Solier (ECR)

Subject: Indictment of former Prime Minister Rodríguez Zapatero and possible fraud with regard to Commission-authorised State aid in the Plus Ultra case

On 19 May 2026, Spain's National High Court charged the former Spanish Prime Minister, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, with criminal association, influence peddling, money laundering and forgery of documents in connection with the EUR 53 million public bailout of Plus Ultra Líneas Aéreas in 2021.

The aid was granted under a scheme authorised by the Commission (SA.59371, COVID-19 Temporary Framework). The court order states that the beneficiaries acted 'through mechanisms outside the legally established channels' and that the airline itself paid for the technical reports supporting its classification as a 'strategic' company. In 2024, the Spanish Court of Auditors found that the Spanish state-owned industrial holding company, Sociedad Estatal de Participaciones Industriales, had breached its obligation to provide a report to the Commission on the Solvency Support Fund for Strategic Companies in 2022.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission reopen case SA.59371 and require the aid to be fully recovered in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2015/1589 if it is confirmed that it was granted as a result of false information?

2. Will the Commission refer the case to the European Public Prosecutor's Office so that it can assess whether it is competent for the matter under Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939?

3. Will it open infringement proceedings against Spain for failure to provide information, as identified by the Spanish Court of Auditors?

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