Question for oral answer O-000031/2025
to the Commission
Rule 142
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Subject: Suspension of the EU-Qatar agreement on air transport

Since it was signed on 18 October 2021, the EU-Qatar ‘open skies’ agreement has granted Qatar Airways full access to the European aviation market.

It is being applied on a provisional basis pending ratification by the Member States and consent by the European Parliament.

However, as has been reported in the press, the agreement has been tainted by allegations of corruption against one of its main negotiators, in connection with which the European Public Prosecutor’s Office opened an ex officio investigation in November 2024.

As a consequence, several Member States and Parliament decided to delay their examination of the agreement.

Article 7 of the agreement provides that the Union, its Member States and Qatar ‘shall (...) not grant or permit subsidies to any air carriers if such subsidies adversely affect the fair and equal opportunity of the air carriers of the other Party to compete (...)’.

Each party is required to ensure that its air carriers benefiting from the agreement publish, at least once a year, a financial report which identifies subsidies granted by each of the parties.

However, several stakeholders report that, despite repeated requests over the last three years, the information provided by Qatar Airways does not ensure the financial transparency required by the agreement.

This is a worrying example of unfair competition for European industries exposed to international competition.

The Commission has the power to request the necessary financial information from Doha within 30 days.

1. Does the Commission consider the information contained in the financial reports provided by the Qatari authorities to be sufficient?

2. If necessary, does it intend, in accordance with Article 7(5) of the EU-Qatar agreement on air transport, to request additional financial information from Doha in order to ensure

that no illegal subsidies have been granted to Qatar Airways?

3. Does it intend to suspend the agreement pending the outcome of the EPPO's investigation into suspicions of corruption surrounding the negotiations?

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