

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001390/24
to the Commission
Adrian-George Axinia (ECR)
(19 July 2024)**

Subject: State aids for the construction of the new Alcochete airport

In 2022, the Portuguese Government launched (Resolutions RCM89/2022 and 86/2023) a ‘strategic analysis of the airport capacity increase for the Lisbon region’ to select locations for a new airport. Concluded in March 2024, the analysis had shortlisted three locations: Alcochete, Vendas Novas and Santarem. The first two fell within the scope of the current concession contract for all the main airports in Portugal. In May 2024, the government decided (RCM66/2024) to build a single new airport in Alcochete, notifying the concessionaire (Vinci Group). This project is rumoured to be quite expensive and may require extensive state aid.

1. Is the Commission scrutinising state aids used to construct the new airport in Alcochete?
2. If so, can Commission disclose which form these state aids take — waivers on current concession obligations, concession extensions, a commitment regarding the future renewal of the concession, the bestowal of public land, the construction of dedicated road/rail infrastructure, or anything else?
3. Can the current concession contract accommodate what the government may be negotiating with the concessionaire to enable the Alcochete project, without being opened to competition?

Submitted: 19.7.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager on behalf of the European Commission
(19 August 2024)**

In general, it is for Member States to assess if a measure involves state aid and to notify such a measure to the Commission for assessment, in advance of any granting, unless covered by block exemptions.

So far, the Commission has not received such a notification or been in contact with Portugal concerning any measures regarding a new airport in Alcochete and has no knowledge of the content of the current concession contract between the Portuguese Government and the concession holder.

The Commission would therefore suggest that the Honourable Member contacts the Portuguese Government directly.
