

EN

E-002221/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.1.2025)

The Commission refers to its previous replies to questions E-001889/2023 and P-002436/2023. By Decision of 21 December 2021, the Commission conditionally approved EUR 2 550 million State aid that the Portuguese State was planning to implement to support the restructuring of Transportes Aéreos de Portugal SGPS, parent company of Transportes Aéreos de Portugal SA¹. The Commission is in close contact with the Portuguese authorities regarding the implementation of the Decision.

Before that, the Commission had approved also in 2021 EUR 462 million and EUR 71 million aid from the Portuguese State in order to compensate the damage directly caused to Transportes Aéreos de Portugal SA by the COVID-19 outbreak due to travel restrictions in Portugal and in other countries².

The State aid included equity or quasi equity measures in all three instances, allowing the Portuguese State to increase its shareholding, unlike former direct or indirect shareholders of both undertakings who did not subscribe to capital increases. In that context, the Commission did not carry out in 2021 any assessment of the privatisation process of Transportes Aéreos de Portugal SGPS and Transportes Aéreos de Portugal SA in 2015 or of the role allegedly played by Airbus. This is because the process through which former shareholders had acquired their stakes did not have relevance for the compatibility of the State aid in question with the internal market.

¹ OJ L 139, 8.5.2022, p. 19.

² OJ C 116 of 11.3.2022, p.2. and OJ C90 of 25.2.2022, p.3.