

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000245/25  
to the Commission  
Nora Junco García (ECR), Diego Solier (ECR)  
(21 January 2025)**

*Subject:* Request to eliminate subsidies for Morocco

Morocco, a country with a limited gross domestic product per capita and an economy still dependent on traditional sectors, is experiencing significant economic growth thanks to long-term strategies. This development is having a direct impact on Spain, especially in strategic sectors such as industry and logistics. Massive foreign investment, extremely favourable fiscal conditions and projects such as the development of the port of Tanger Med, which already exceeds the port of Algeciras in terms of traffic, are evidence of a model that is keeping Spain's competitiveness in check.

However, Spain is not only facing an external challenge. Misguided policy decisions have contributed to weakening essential infrastructures such as the rail corridor to Algeciras, hampering its competitiveness. Moreover, the Spanish Government has allowed a worrying dependence on Morocco in strategic areas such as the control of migratory flows and natural resources, compromising national sovereignty and economic stability.

All this proves that the economic balance within the European Union is at stake. In view of the above:

1. What measures is the Commission considering to ensure that European subsidies to non-EU countries do not harm Member States?
2. What specific initiatives is the Commission planning to strengthen the logistical corridors in southern Europe, such as the Algeciras corridor?
3. Is the Commission assessing the economic impact of Morocco's fiscal and labour policies on key European industries?

Submitted: 21.1.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission  
(28 March 2025)**

EU development cooperation with non-EU countries is a parallel competence of the EU and the Member States. The Commission ensures that cooperation with non-EU countries aligns with EU interests and does not harm Member States by enforcing strict eligibility criteria, transparency standards and robust monitoring systems.

Concerning the logistical corridors in southern Europe, the Algeciras — Bobadilla railway forms an integral part of the Mediterranean and Atlantic European Transport Corridors.

The designated coordinators of both corridors are committed to ensuring that this line is developed and upgraded within the given deadlines and complies with the defined infrastructure standards of the new trans-European transport network (TEN-T) Regulation (EU) 1679/2024 <sup>(1)</sup>, which was adopted in June 2024. In the TEN-T Regulation, the Algeciras — Bobadilla railway line is designated as a core network line for both freight and passenger services.

The Commission closely analyses and monitors EU country partners' policies that may affect the European economy. For instance, as regards tax good governance standards that were developed based on the Commission's 2016 External Strategy for Effective Taxation <sup>(2)</sup>, Morocco currently complies with all the criteria of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, after amending the preferential tax regime (Casablanca Finance City) in 2020, thus addressing potential threats to Member States' tax base.

The Code of Conduct Group for business taxation, with technical assistance of the Commission, will monitor that Morocco continues to comply with the EU listing criteria.

Understanding the impact that Morocco's policies could have is vital for crafting appropriate strategies to support EU industries' growth and competitiveness and safeguard the EU common market.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj>

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(2016) 24 final.