

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-003033/25  
to the Commission  
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)  
(22 July 2025)**

*Subject:* Possible breach of EU law in the Spanish Government granting state aid to Plus Ultra

In light of the revelations about former Prime Minister Rodríguez Zapatero meeting with then Minister José Luis Ábalos — currently charged with corruption — on behalf of airline Plus Ultra, it is urgent to clarify whether the granting of EUR 53 million from Spain's Solvency Support Fund for Strategic Companies (FASEE) complied with the EU's legal framework.

The Commission should clarify whether this state aid complies with Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, given that the company it went to has a marginal position in the Spanish market.

1. Will the Commission examine whether the political intervention in question infringes the principle of administrative impartiality and the rule of law, and whether the process complied with the principles of transparency, objectivity and non-discrimination, considering that companies with greater economic impact were excluded?
2. Is the Commission assessing whether this case could constitute a breach of EU rules on the fight against fraud and corruption, especially in light of Regulation (EU) 2020/2223 and the governance framework of the Recovery and Resilience Facility?

Submitted: 22.7.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission  
(30 September 2025)**

The Commission decided on 31 July 2020 not to raise objections to the aid scheme of the Solvency Support Fund for strategic enterprises financed from resources of the State budget of and notified by the Kingdom of Spain <sup>(1)</sup>. The scheme was considered compatible with the internal market pursuant to Article 107(3) (b) of the Treaty of the Functioning of European Union, which allows aid to remedy a serious disturbance of the economy of a Member State.

The 2020 Commission Decision required individual notification of solvency support that exceeded EUR 250 million to individual beneficiaries.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that exceptional state aid granted owing to the pandemic is in strict compliance with EU law. The 2020 Commission Decision underwent judicial review of its legality, which the General Court and the Court of Justice of the European Union confirmed <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Commission, the European Court of Auditors, European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Public Prosecutor's Office carry out controls, audits, and investigations according to their competences to ensure the protection of the EU budget.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Commission Decision SA.57659(2020/N)-Spain-COVID 19 — Recapitalisation fund (OJ C269, 14.8.2020, p. 8).

<sup>(2)</sup> Case T-628/20, EU:T:2021:285, Case C-441/21 P, EU:C:2024:477.