

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.3.2026)

As referred to in the question, the strategic map and action plan for noise for Valencia Airport has been adopted by the Spanish authorities in 2024. Therefore, the Commission will continue to engage in the necessary dialogue with the Spanish authorities aiming to achieve compliance with EU law¹ for the outstanding entities, for which action plans or maps are missing, as soon as possible.

The Environmental Noise Directive (END)² does not set binding noise targets/levels but establishes a framework for managing environmental noise with a view to reduce exposure where necessary. It does not impose operational restrictions on airports, nor does it prescribe any specific mitigation action. Consequently, under the END, it is not for the Commission to assess the measures set out in individual action plans. While Member States have discretion in deciding which measures to include in their noise action plans, the Balanced Approach Regulation³ lays down the procedures that must be followed to introduce noise-related operating restrictions. In this respect, the Commission has received no notification from the Spanish authorities of any intention to introduce operating restrictions at Valencia Airport.

The END also requires that the public be informed and be given the opportunity to participate in the preparation, review and revision of noise action plans. Moreover, citizens can challenge the legality of those plans before national courts or administrative bodies in accordance with the provisions of their national legal system.

¹ INFR(2016)2118, [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2016\)2118&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR(2016)2118&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate).

² Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - Declaration by the Commission in the Conciliation Committee on the Directive relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, pp. 12–25.

³ Regulation (EU) No 598/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a Balanced Approach and repealing Directive 2002/30/EC, OJ L 173, 12.6.2014, pp. 65–78.