

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002109/26
to the Commission
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(21 May 2026)**

Subject: Breach of EU law in the public bailout of Plus Ultra

Spain's National High Court has indicted former Spanish Prime Minister J. L. Rodríguez Zapatero for the alleged crimes of criminal association, influence peddling, forgery of documents and money laundering in connection with the EUR 53 million public bailout of Plus Ultra, an airline with links to the sanctioned Venezuelan regime. France and Switzerland are providing judicial cooperation in the case; at the same time, the US authorities are conducting investigations into alleged financial schemes connected with Chavismo.

The bailout was authorised through the Solvency Support Fund for Strategic Companies, approved by the Commission under the exceptional COVID-19 State aid framework. The alleged scheme supposedly used political contacts and privileged access to information to influence the granting of EU public funds.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to review whether the Plus Ultra bailout could have been determined by interests connected to the government and whether possible access to inside information about the aid could infringe the European principles of equal treatment, good administration and transparency?
2. What steps does the Commission intend to take to verify whether the European procedures and obligations relating to transparency, equal treatment, oversight and good administration were violated in providing the bailout?

Submitted: 21.5.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(29 June 2026)**

The Commission takes note of the information concerning criminal proceedings in relation to the granting of recapitalisation aid to the airline Plus Ultra. The Commission is unable to comment on an ongoing judicial investigation.

As regards the general principles of law, in particular transparency and equal treatment, the decisions granting or refusing individual aid under the recapitalisation aid scheme in question ⁽¹⁾ were open to appeal in good time by any interested parties considering themselves to have been adversely affected.

The Commission does not intend to take the place of the competent judicial remedies for reviewing the acts of the Spanish administration granting or refusing individual aid.

⁽¹⁾ State Aid SA.57659 (2020/N) — Spain COVID 19 — Recapitalisation fund; Official Journal of the European Union C 269, 14.8.2020.