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Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
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EU relations with Morocco encompass a broad range of issues, including security, trade, investment, economic cooperation and migration.

Support to the Moroccan transport sector aims to contribute to sustainable economic development, regional connectivity and the green transition, while also promoting higher safety, environmental and governance standards. The transport sector also offers opportunities for leading EU companies to invest, sell advanced technologies and contribute their expertise. Such cooperation is part of the EU's broader partnership with Morocco and is consistent with the EU's interest in stable, secure and prosperous neighbouring countries in the southern Mediterranean.

The European Investment Bank's (EIB) operations in the Moroccan transport sector are supported through a mix of EIB own funds and EU grants and guarantees under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus, within the legal framework established by the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) jointly agreed by the co-legislators. Since 2022, the EU budget has supported two EIB investment operations in Morocco's transport sector through a blending grant of EUR 15.4 million and guarantee cover on EIB loans totalling EUR 550 million. The total amount committed from the EU budget for these two operations is EUR 64.9 million, comprising the grant contribution and the provisioning for the guarantee coverage.

It should be underlined that EU budget allocations for external action, including those concerning Morocco, are distinct from the resources earmarked for Member States and they represent around 8% of the overall current Multiannual Financial Framework. The EU supports the urgent investment needs of Member States through dedicated internal instruments and programmes such as Cohesion Policy, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and InvestEU. External financing instruments such as NDICI-GE pursue, among others, the complementary objective of fostering stability and prosperity in the EU's neighbourhood, thereby contributing to the EU's broader strategic interests and benefiting the EU as a whole.