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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.5.2026)

1. EU air carriers are required to comply with licensing requirements as set out in Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008¹. This includes financial fitness requirements, majority ownership and effective control by Member States and/or EU nationals, and a requirement to have their principal place of business in the Member State where they apply for an operating licence. As EU undertakings, EU air carriers are also subject to EU business, environmental, social and tax regulations. In the first instance, it is for the national licensing authority to review ongoing compliance with the licensing requirements. The Commission oversees the application of the rules, in close collaboration with the licensing authorities in the Member States.

2. The Commission reviews the effects of mergers on competition in the EU if the merging companies meet certain turnover thresholds under Regulation (EC) No 139/2004² (EU Merger Regulation). Below these thresholds, a transaction might be notifiable to national competition authorities. The transaction mentioned has not been notified to the Commission. The transaction mentioned has been reviewed by the German national competition authority. In addition, transactions involving financial contributions granted by non-EU public entities might be subject to a review under Regulation (EU) 2022/2560³ (Foreign Subsidies Regulation).

3. The Commission is responsible for the enforcement of the Foreign Subsidies Regulation and may initiate investigations ex officio or following a notification if the requirements set in the Regulation are being fulfilled.

¹ OJ L 293, 31.10.2008, pp. 3–20.

² OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, pp. 1–22.

³ OJ L 330, 23.12.2022, pp. 1–45.