

**Question for written answer E-002636/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Territorial continuity and island transport: achieving transparency and sustainability

Despite the existence of numerous agreements, including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Government and the island regions, and despite action taken by authorities to support territorial continuity, problems linked to the high costs of maritime and air routes to islands remain. What is more, transport operators' opacity continues to seriously harm local economies, tourism and business activities.

The problem is compounded by the need to improve transport infrastructure without undermining islands' fragile environment, a matter which calls for an integrated approach that combines environmental sustainability and transport efficiency.

In the light of the above:

1. What measures will the Commission take, with a view to protecting consumers' rights, to ensure transparency and prevent misleading commercial practices by transport operators?
2. What practical steps can the Commission take to support the – environmentally friendly and sustainable – improvement of transport infrastructure for island regions?
3. With a view to tackling unfair practices on island routes and fostering measures that serve islands, are plans afoot to bolster cohesion policy?

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