

**Question for written answer E-001144/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jordi Cañas** (Renew)

Subject: 2020 meeting between Delcy Rodríguez and José Luis Ábalos, in breach of EU rules

On 20 January 2020, the Vice-President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, landed at Barajas airport (Madrid), in defiance of Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 by breaching travel restrictions and entering the Schengen area<sup>1</sup>. Ms Rodríguez met with the Spanish Government's then Minister of Transport, José Luis Ábalos, and his right-hand man, Koldo García<sup>2</sup>.

On 11 February 2020 the European Parliament held a debate on infringement of the restrictive measures imposed on Ms Rodríguez, in which the Vice-President / High Representative stated that imposing sanctions for breaches of travel restrictions fell outside the Commission's purview<sup>3</sup>. Mr García has now revealed that 12 suitcases were removed from the plane and then placed back on it, without disclosing their contents<sup>4</sup>.

Given that this meeting could be related to the corrupt scheming for which Mr García and Mr Ábalos are being investigated, implicated as they were in the embezzlement of EU funds for the purchase of face masks during the pandemic and for the bail-out of Air Europa:

1. Will the Commission investigate this breach of the aforementioned decision with a view to ensuring that Member States impose appropriate sanctions for violations of travel restrictions?
2. Will it investigate this possible misappropriation of European funds?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.elmundo.es/espana/2024/04/16/661eaaf221efa0f5388b459b.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.elmundo.es/espana/2024/04/14/661bedca21efa0ca0c8b4573.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2020-02-11-ITM-009\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2020-02-11-ITM-009_EN.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.elmundo.es/espana/2024/04/01/660af7e221efa0e4638b458f.html>