



Dear Prime Minister,

Dear Vice-President and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge,

We read with deep concern the recent announcement done by the Spanish of a €2.4 billion investment to expand Madrid Airport, with the intention to reach 90 million annual passengers in 2031, a 28% increase from current traffic volumes. The announcement was done the same day that some Spanish provinces reached 30°, the hottest month of January since data is available, and with nine active wildfires in the country. The expansion of Barajas airport, the fifth with higher emissions of Europe, would mean an increase between 20 and 34% of greenhouse effect gasses compared to 2019.

In addition, there are also concerns about air pollution. One year ago, the European Court of Justice ruled that Spain allowed nitrogen dioxide air pollution levels to systematically exceed EU limits in Madrid between 2010 and 2018. Finally, this month, the city of Madrid complied for the first time with the EU legal parameters of air quality. However, the impact on the public health of the citizens of the most populated city of the country remains, and will be worsen with an increase of the traffic volumes announced by the government.

We consider this investment will have an aviation lock-in effect, this investment-intensive model will perpetuate the dependency to flights to secure Spain's international mobility, while delaying or preventing the transition to a clean train-based interconnections with neighbouring countries and beyond. Madrid remains an island without night trains offering clean alternatives to visitors coming from abroad.

We firmly believe that the declaration of the climate emergency it is not a rhetoric exercise and has to have consequences in the policies we adopt. Enlarging an airport is the opposite of what we need. We hope you reconsider the priorities and we remain at your disposal for any clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Lamberts, co-president of the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament

Terry Reintke, co-president of the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament

Mélanie Vogel, co-chair of the European Green Party

Thomas Waitz, co-chair of the European Green Party