

Question for written answer E-002403/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Disruptions due to European air traffic management and protection for overflights during national air traffic control strikes

Almost half of all flights in Europe were disrupted this summer, primarily because of a lack of airspace ‘capacity’ – due to the fragmentation of national systems – and resource issues, including the number and organisation of air traffic controllers. The Draghi report estimates that this mismanagement cost EUR 6 billion and generated 11.6 million tonnes of CO₂.

The traffic management problem is further exacerbated by ad hoc actions such as national air traffic control strikes, leading to flight delays and cancellations, including for passengers who are only flying over the country affected (overflights).

The Single European Sky 2+ measures will not be enough to ensure lasting solutions to these problems.

1. What concrete initiatives will the European Commission propose during its next term to ensure a structural reform of air traffic control management in Europe? What will the timeline be for that reform?
2. Will the Commission agree to propose a binding initiative that harmonises the national systems in order to ensure that all overflights can be operated in the event of air traffic control strikes in a Member State, while respecting the right to strike?

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