

**Question for written answer E-002776/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Geadis Geadı (ECR)

Subject: Risk posed by the operation of an illegal airport in occupied Cyprus and the need for aviation security measures

On 28 September 2024, the European Commission and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) decided to issue Conflict Zone Information Bulletins (CZIBs) advising against flight in the air spaces of Lebanon and Israel at all flight levels, in order to reduce the risk to EU air carriers.

Meanwhile, in the precarious eastern Mediterranean region, the illegal airport in the Turkish-occupied northern side of Cyprus is continuing to operate (for both commercial and military aircraft) on a daily basis.

The illegal airport near the occupied village of Tymbou, which is not recognised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, adds a significant risk to the already problematic air traffic in the region. Despite its small size and limited resources, the Republic of Cyprus retains responsibility for the Search and Rescue Region (SRR) covering most of the eastern Mediterranean.

Given that Türkiye continues to refuse to accept the principle of supporting EU air carriers in air services agreements with the Member States:

What action has the Commission taken to address the potential risk to aviation posed by the operational activities of the illegal Tymbou airport in the occupied area of Cyprus?

Submitted: 4.12.2024