

**Question for written answer E-003270/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Data on decreased medical fitness among pilots and operational safety following COVID-19 vaccination

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency's Safety Information Bulletin 2021-06¹ and subsequent guidance advised aircrew to temporarily refrain from operating following COVID-19 vaccination to mitigate the risk of side effects impairing safe performance. Under Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011² (Part-Medical provisions), licence holders are obliged to self-ground in the event of any decrease in medical fitness.

Comprehensive and comparable EU-wide data is essential in order to assess both the scale of such side effects and the potential safety consequences.

1. Since the start of COVID-19 vaccination in the EU, how many occurrences of in-flight or pre-flight pilot incapacitation, grounding by an operator, or refusal of medical clearance have been recorded in temporal proximity to vaccination?
2. Of the pilots who self-grounded because of post-vaccination side effects, how many sought and obtained clearance from an aero-medical examiner or other authorised practitioner before resuming flight duties?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the safety risks to EU civil aviation arising from post-vaccination side effects in pilots, and what measures does it consider necessary to mitigate such risks in the future?

Submitted: 22.8.2025

¹ <https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/sib-2021-06-vaccination-aircrew-operational-recommendations>.

² Commission Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011 of 3 November 2011 laying down technical requirements and administrative procedures related to civil aviation aircrew pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 311, 25.11.2011, p. 1, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/1178/oj>).