

Question for written answer E-003449/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Barbara Bonte (PfE)

Subject: Commission statements regarding the alleged GPS malfunction on Sunday, 31 August 2025

On Sunday, 31 August 2005, the Commission reported a GPS malfunction that forced the pilots of the Commission President's aircraft to switch to paper maps. As a result of this malfunction, the aircraft circled Plovdiv airport in Bulgaria for about an hour. The Commission immediately blamed Russia and emphasised the need for more investment in defence.

Meanwhile, flight data shows that this story doesn't add up. The plane landed with only a nine-minute delay, and the FlightRadar24 website reports that GPS quality was good throughout. The Bulgarian authorities have confirmed this.

1. Why did the Commission disseminate an unverifiable and now disproved version of the facts?
2. Defence is an exclusive competence of the Member States. On the basis of which article of the Treaty on European Union does the Commission assume this competence?

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