

**Question for written answer E-000179/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Timeliness of the technical problem in the Athens FIR – Assessment of the Commission’s action and compliance with EU rules

On 4 January 2026, the operation of the Athens Flight Information Region (FIR) was subject to extensive technical disruption to communications systems. As a result, all flights within and outside Greek airspace were grounded for several hours, with interruptions to radio communications, as well as serious delays and problems with arrivals and departures, revealing vulnerabilities in the country’s air traffic systems and the need to modernise infrastructure¹²³⁴.

This incident took place following my previous parliamentary written question on the matter (E-001606/2025⁵), to which the Commission replied with general references to inspections and infringement procedures, without addressing specific shortcomings, despite calls for review.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. How does it assess the impact of this recent incident on the guarantees for the implementation of the air safety rules and communication standards provided for in Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 and related rules?
2. Does it consider that the previous answer to question E-001606/2025 responded to the real challenges of the system, or is there a need for updated and targeted action by the Commission?
3. What measures does it propose to urgently upgrade and ensure the resilience of air traffic control communications and systems in Member States with critical infrastructure, such as Greece, to avoid similar incidents in the future?

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¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/greek-airports-halt-flights-due-radio-frequency-issues-2026-01-04>

² <https://greekreporter.com/2026/01/04/greece-ground-all-flights-fir-technical-failure>

³ <https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1291523/domestic-flight-service-slowly-resumes-authorities-investigating-fir-technical-failure>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/blackout-greek-airspace-mystery-outage-reignites-debate-over-ageing-systems-2026-01-05/>

⁵ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001606_EN.html