

**Question for written answer E-001465/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Delays in the operational deployment of helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS) for mountain rescue in Greece

Greece is a country with rugged mountain terrain, a large number of remote areas and many islands. In recent years, serious accidents, including fatal incidents, have occurred in mountain areas and on islands, requiring rapid and specialised airborne intervention. These incidents demonstrate that swift access and adequate aerial coverage remain matters of life and death.

Despite the adoption of a national plan for airborne rescue and medical evacuations, serious concerns remain regarding full operational deployment, the availability of resources, geographical coverage and the interoperability of the relevant services.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it assess the adequacy of preparedness and capacity for airborne mountain rescue in Greece, particularly in mountainous, remote and island areas, within the framework of the EU's goals for prevention and preparedness in civil protection?
2. Which EU funding instruments, technical assistance or operational support mechanisms could be used to accelerate the full deployment of an effective and interoperable HEMS system in Greece?
3. Does the Commission intend to promote common European guidelines or minimum standards for airborne mountain rescue, particularly as regards readiness times, crew training and coordination between civil protection, health services and aviation assets?

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