

**Question for written answer E-001885/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Risk of Ryanair shutting up shop in Thessaloniki: a new blow to connectivity, tourism and regional cohesion in Northern Greece

According to reports and information that has been made public, Ryanair has allegedly informed its employees of its intention to close its base at Thessaloniki's Makedonia Airport, citing a significant increase in airport fees.

Such a development would have serious consequences for the international connectivity of Northern Greece, tourism, the local economy, but also hundreds of workers directly or indirectly linked to the operation of the company and the airport. At the same time, it highlights once again the broader European problem of the rising cost of accessing regional airports and the lack of a coherent European strategy to maintain regional air connectivity.

Thessaloniki and Northern Greece as a whole cannot become isolated 'white zones' in terms of air connectivity, at a time when the EU is talking about cohesion, regional development and equal access opportunities.

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

1. Is it following the matter of Ryanair's possible departure from Thessaloniki and what measures does it intend to take to ensure air connectivity for European regions?
2. Does it not consider that rising fees at regional airports act as a deterrent for low-cost airlines, which risks harming the regional economy and tourism?
3. Does it intend to consider creating a European support framework for maintaining strategic air connections in peripheral and less accessible areas of the EU?

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