

Question for written answer E-002031/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)

Subject: Performance-based navigation

Performance-based navigation (PBN) is a requirement across Europe for determining flight paths in order to make air traffic more efficient. However, the implementation of the PBN requirement is in conflict with the health interests of many residents in urban areas. In Brussels, the new RNP-07L route has led to a concentration of noise pollution in several municipalities, severely affecting more than 400 000 people. This is also evident from the ongoing evaluation of the Balanced Approach Regulation¹, in which hundreds of people have already pointed out that the noise impact is concentrated and unevenly distributed.

Given the planned full roll-out of PBN by 2030, it seems essential that its implementation be evaluated now, specifically regarding the impact on urban areas with high population density.

I therefore ask the Commission the following questions:

1. How does the Commission ensure that PBN routes do not cause disproportionate nuisance in densely populated areas, and is there an operational monitoring mechanism in place to detect and correct negative noise impacts?
2. How is population density effectively integrated into the application of the Environmental Noise Directive² and the Balanced Approach Regulation?
3. Does the Commission already plan to conduct an updated evaluation of the PBN Regulation³ before 2028, so that adjustments can be made before PBN is fully implemented in 2030?

Submitted: 18.5.2026

¹ Regulation (EU) No 598/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a Balanced Approach and repealing Directive 2002/30/EC (OJ L 173, 12.6.2014, p. 65, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/598/oj>).

² Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise – Declaration by the Commission in the Conciliation Committee on the Directive relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/49/oj>).

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1048 of 18 July 2018 laying down airspace usage requirements and operating procedures concerning performance-based navigation (OJ L 189, 26.7.2018, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1048/oj).