

**Question for written answer E-002838/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: Protecting people living in the immediate vicinity of regional airport runways

Many regional airports in the European Union operate in the immediate vicinity of residential areas, schools and tourist facilities. In Greece, a typical example is Rhodes International Airport, where a significant number of locals live below the flight paths of approaching and departing planes.

While EU law does not provide for a single minimum distance between aerodromes and residential areas, Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, the implementing acts adopted pursuant to it and the international standards of ICAO, in particular Annex 14 (Aerodromes), require the systematic assessment of the risks associated with the operation of aerodromes as well as safety management.

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

1. What are the obligations under EU law to assess and manage the risks faced by residents living in the immediate vicinity of regional airport runways?
2. Does the certification and oversight framework for aerodromes, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 and the relevant EASA requirements, include a third-party/ground risk assessment, in particular when there are residential areas or other sensitive uses below flight paths?
3. Does it intend to examine whether additional EU guidelines or legislative initiatives are needed to better protect residents living in the immediate vicinity of regional airports, particularly in island and tourist regions with high levels of seasonal air traffic?

Submitted: 8.7.2026