

**Question for written answer E-002931/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Medical preparedness and emergency care services at international airports in the European Union

International airports constitute critical European transport infrastructure, serving millions of citizens and visitors of the European Union every day. Their safe operation requires not only high standards of aviation safety, but also adequate medical preparedness to respond immediately to emergencies.

In 2025, more than 10 million passengers passed through Heraklion's Nikos Kazantzakis International Airport – the second largest airport in Greece – making it one of the EU's busiest gateways for tourism. Despite its particularly high passenger numbers, concerns have been raised about the adequacy of medical staffing and the operational readiness of emergency services. The adequacy of these services is not only relevant for the organisation of national health systems, but is directly linked to passenger safety, the resilience of critical European infrastructure and the effective management of emergencies.

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

1. Are there European guidelines, standards or best practices on medical preparedness and the availability of pre-hospital emergency care services at international airports in the European Union?
2. Does it consider that the adequacy of these services is a factor that contributes to the safety of passengers and the resilience of the EU's critical transport infrastructure?
3. What EU funding tools or programmes can Member States use to strengthen medical preparedness services at international airports serving large numbers of passengers?

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