

Question for written answer E-003460/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Flight safety in the Nicosia FIR and Türkiye's compliance with European and international law

The issue of flight safety at the Nicosia FIR was brought to the fore again by the Cyprus Air Traffic Controllers' Association, following an incident in which a Turkish military aircraft failed to respond to calls from the Nicosia Control Centre and deviated from its course, approaching another civil aircraft.

Immediate action is needed to address the recurrent issue of flight safety. This issue is partly due to the continued operation of the illegal airport in occupied Tymbou and in particular the risks to those using it, given that its operation is based on illegal procedures and reduced radar range.

Despite the high level of safety ensured in Cypriot airspace thanks to the experience and operational readiness of Cyprus Civil Aviation personnel, Türkiye's refusal to cooperate with the Republic of Cyprus and comply with international rules is in breach of the law and poses real risks for aviation safety. These serious risks have also been highlighted at European level, including by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency and the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations, and documented in Commission and Parliament reports, which call on Türkiye to comply.

In view of the above:

What specific steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that Türkiye complies with international and European law and aviation safety rules, with regard to the safety of intra-EU flights?

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