

**Question for written answer E-003639/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: High road fatality rate in island regions and the need for targeted European action

Eurostat data shows that the Ionian Islands and South Aegean island regions are among the EU regions with the highest rates of road fatalities¹. In 2023, the Ionian Islands recorded 120 fatalities per million inhabitants and 119 in the South Aegean. The corresponding figures for 2024 were 140 fatalities in the Ionian Islands and 110.3 in the South Aegean, compared to a European average of 44 fatalities.

This illustrates a long-standing problem, aggravated by geographical isolation, limited road infrastructure and increased traffic during the tourist season. During the summer months, the significant increase in population and traffic, the extensive use of rental vehicles and the coexistence of vehicles alongside pedestrians and cyclists puts a disproportionate strain on the islands' road networks, which already present significant weaknesses.

In view of the EU's Vision Zero goal, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What steps does it intend to take to improve road safety in island/tourist areas whose roads are subject to disproportionate pressure during tourist seasons?
2. How does it intend to promote the systematic inclusion of island-proofing in the selection and evaluation of co-financed projects, taking into account seasonal traffic and the measurable contribution of these projects to reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries?

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¹ Specifically, according to Eurostat data, the island regions of the Ionian Islands and the South Aegean rank second and third respectively in the list of European regions with the highest road fatality rates (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20251113-2>).