

**Question for written answer E-003859/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)

Subject: Etna eruption emergencies and the disruption to Sicilian air and land mobility

Mount Etna's volcanic eruption activity is increasingly disrupting Sicilian air mobility. In 2026, volcanic ash emissions resulted in flights at Catania International Airport being suspended, cancelled or rescheduled on a number of occasions.

The repeated disruptions caused by volcanic activity pose the broader issue of resilience of transport infrastructure and the territorial continuity of a European island region.

In light of Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 on TEN-T¹ and Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 on passenger protection² and seeing as though Catania Airport is not only a crucial piece of regional infrastructure but also a key hub connecting Sicily with the rest of the European Union.

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

1. Does it intend to assess the vulnerability of Catania Airport and Sicilian connectivity in the light of the TEN-T resilience requirements?
2. Does it intend to put forward a European plan for the continuity of Sicilian mobility, coordinating Catania, Palermo and Comiso and the various modes of transport?
3. Does it not consider it necessary to strengthen European instruments to ensure that passengers are provided with information, assistance and effective rerouting during such crises?

Submitted: 24.9.2026

¹ Article 46 expressly states the need to reinforce the resilience of transport infrastructure to natural hazards and operational interruptions.

² Which guarantees passenger assistance and protection, even in extraordinary circumstances.