

**Priority question for written answer P-002837/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: Protection of residents from aircraft noise and air pollution at regional airports below the 50 000 movements threshold

According to a response from the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority, Rhodes International Airport is not subject to the strategic noise mapping obligations of Directive 2002/49/EC because in 2025 it carried out 48 482 aircraft movements, i.e. below the 50 000 movements threshold. However, residents live a short distance from the runway used for take-off and landing and are exposed daily to aircraft noise and air pollution, especially during the tourist season, due to increased air traffic. This is a burden that is not reflected in the annual number of movements.

Accordingly:

1. Can the Commission confirm that not exceeding the 50 000 movements threshold only provides an exemption from the specific obligations of Directive 2002/49/EC and not from the obligations of other acts of Union law, such as Directive 2011/92/EU on environmental impact assessment and Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality?
2. When aviation activity increases significantly and affects populated areas near an airport, are the competent authorities required to review the environmental operating conditions and assess the cumulative effects on human health, noise and air quality, even if the 50 000 movements threshold has not been reached?
3. Does the Commission consider that the threshold of 50 000 annual movements adequately reflects the exposure of residents to noise at regional and island airports with heavy seasonal tourist traffic, where the burden is concentrated in a few months of the year?

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