

EN

E-002403/2024

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.1.2025)

1. The Commission is aware that the summer 2024 was particularly problematic in terms of flight delays, which were caused by two factors of comparable magnitude: adverse weather conditions and Air Traffic Control staffing and capacity¹.

While the Commission is looking at ways of improving the situation, it will first focus on the implementation of the Single European Sky (SES2+) Regulation that entered into force on 1 December 2024². This reform will bring improvements notably in terms of performance of monopolistic Air Navigation Service Providers, through the new permanent and independent Performance Review Board, and in terms of reducing the environmental footprint of aviation by environment and climate performance targets, and through modulated charges for airlines.

2. In addition, as longer-term solution would require the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders, including the EU level social partners³, the Commission has announced its intention to engage in a comprehensive dialogue with stakeholders and Member States to address inefficiencies in air traffic management and overcome remaining barriers within the Single European Sky. The Commission is aware of the issue of national Air Traffic Control strikes and of their impacts on flights and passengers in the entire network. The Commission is looking into possible remedies, which could include legislative solutions, to promote a consistent balance across the EU of the right to provide services (including overflights), while respecting national competences with regard to the right to strike⁴, the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental rights⁵ and take full account of the national sovereignty of airspace.

¹ [https://www.eurocontrol.int/publication/summer-2024-performance#:~:text=Summer%202024%20was%20a%20very,per%20flight%20\(all%20causes\)](https://www.eurocontrol.int/publication/summer-2024-performance#:~:text=Summer%202024%20was%20a%20very,per%20flight%20(all%20causes))

² https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/single-european-sky-regulation-enters-force-aiming-more-efficient-and-sustainable-airspace-2024-12-02_en
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202402803

³ At EU level, the Commission facilitates the functioning of the Civil Aviation Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee, https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/european-employment-strategy/social-dialogue/cross-industry-and-sectoral-social-dialogue/civil-aviation-sectoral-social-dialogue_en?prefLang=sk

⁴ Article 153(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

⁵ In particular Article 28 on the right of collective bargaining and action.