

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000188/25
to the Council
Martin Schirdewan (The Left)
(16 January 2025)**

Subject: Travel routes

1. How often did Council President Charles Michel use a private plane in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and who authorised those journeys?
2. On what routes were private planes used by Council President Charles Michel in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and what were the names of the other passengers on the flights?
3. It emerged in March 2023 that Henrik Hololei, a member of staff at the Commission, had taken several free business-class flights on Qatar Airways. In a similar vein, which Council officials have been authorised to travel on official business with the costs being covered by third parties, what routes were involved and, where applicable, which companies covered those costs?

Submitted: 16.1.2025

**Reply
(24 April 2025)**

First question: The Council refers the Honourable Member to the website of the President of the European Council ⁽¹⁾, where all missions and their purposes have been published.

In line with the applicable rules, the travel by means of private jet was subject to confirmation from the Head of the President's Cabinet and subsequent agreement from the Director-General of Organisational Development and Services in the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC).

Second question: The Council refers the Honourable Member to the website of the President of the European Council, where all missions, including their routes, have been published.

The Council does not include the requested personal data in the present reply, due to the data protection requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Third question: According to the rules applicable to Council officials, only travel on official business (missions) paid for by the following third parties may be authorised:

- EU Member State authorities;
- International organisations (including other EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies) and international fora, such as the G7 and G20;
- Public or private universities.

In 2024, the following third parties were recorded as having covered costs for the routes travelled by Council officials: EU Member State authorities, international organisations (including other EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies) and public or private universities, including an EU-based think tank. No commercial companies have covered travel costs for Council officials.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/ewph4ckf/250225-pec-missions-expenses-2019-2024-final.pdf>

The routes travelled in 2024 were distributed as follows:

Destination country	Number of times
Non-EU	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
United Kingdom	6
Türkiye	1
EU	
Germany	7
Austria	6
Belgium	80
Cyprus	3
Denmark	12
Spain	2
Estonia	1
France	16
Hungary	64

Ireland	3
Italy	7
Luxembourg	2
Netherlands	5
Poland	41
Portugal	2
Total	259

The Council does not include the requested personal data in the present reply, due to the data protection requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.
