

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000259/25
to the Commission
Peter Agius (PPE)
(22 January 2025)**

Subject: Non-discrimination of diabetic pilots in the EU

For many commercial pilots in the EU, a diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes leads to the loss of their pilot licence, and hence their flying careers. This is not the case in the United States, Canada and Australia. It should not be in the EU, either!

The medical assessment protocol of the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for pilots with diabetes, ARA.MED.330, provides for well-controlled diabetics to obtain aero-medical certification. This has, however, been adopted by only a few of the Member States and relies on outdated technology like finger-prick glucose monitoring.

Beyond the EU, several countries have adopted updated protocols enabling diabetic pilots to fly safely. Advances in diabetes management, such as continuous glucose monitoring and insulin-delivering technology have transformed the lives of diabetics globally. Yet EU pilots remain unfairly grounded, facing barriers and discrimination.

With the EASA's research due in October 2025, action is urgently needed to update the protocol, integrate modern tools and ensure equal opportunities for diabetic pilots across the EU.

Could the Commission:

1. Provide an update on the EASA's research and how it plans to incorporate technological advancements on diabetes into the protocol?
2. Explain the steps taken to ensure all of the Member States adopt a standardised approach?
3. Address how it will tackle the professional and emotional toll on diabetic pilots and ensure fair treatment across the EU?

Submitted: 22.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 April 2025)**

1. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency's (EASA's) research project on diabetes mellitus includes an evaluation of fitness requirements for air traffic controllers and pilots with diabetes. The project will conclude on 12-14 November 2025. The results will not be included in the ARA.MED.330 Medical Assessment Protocol but could instead be the subject of dedicated rulemaking to ensure a uniform level of safety and a harmonised approach.

2. A rulemaking task is expected to update the relevant medical fitness requirements, which will become mandatory for all Member States. EASA will ensure the uniform application of these new requirements through the standardisation process in accordance with Regulation (EU) 628/2013 ⁽¹⁾.

3. Based on the research results, the anticipated regulatory update is expected to allow more individuals with insulin-dependent diabetes to become or continue working. Additionally, the study includes an impact assessment to evaluate the practical implications of implementing its recommendations. This assessment will be further refined as part of the upcoming rulemaking task, ensuring that any regulatory changes not only uphold safety standards but also support fair and equitable treatment of diabetic pilots and air traffic controllers across the EU. The Commission supports Member States in preventing and managing non-communicable diseases (NCD) under the Healthier Together EU NCD initiative ⁽²⁾. Member States are sharing knowledge and best practices on the diagnosis and management of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes ⁽³⁾, including Type 1 diabetes, with funding of EUR 53 million from the EU4Health programme ⁽⁴⁾. This includes awareness raising activities for healthcare providers and citizens.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32013R0628>

⁽²⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en

⁽³⁾ <https://jacardi.eu/>

⁽⁴⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en