

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002436/25
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
(17 June 2025)**

Subject: Development and revitalisation of Comiso Airport

Comiso Airport, which opened in 2013 at a cost of more than EUR 70 million ⁽¹⁾, is now completely unused, with zero flights and zero passengers ⁽²⁾. This is a serious waste of public funds and an obstacle to the European objective of territorial cohesion.

Although Airports Council International has recognised the importance of smaller airports for tourism, connectivity and the development of peripheral regions, it would appear that the airport does not even have a business plan.

This situation undermines territorial continuity, which is vital for ensuring minimum air transport services that meet the criteria of regularity, frequency and fair pricing, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008.

The intermodal services and infrastructure required to fully develop the airport and make it competitive are also lacking.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of Comiso Airport's business plan?
2. What are the reasons for the delays, if any, in the most recent Comiso Airport procedure, within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008, and what information can it provide in this regard?
3. What specific EU resources can be used to ensure that Comiso Airport is fully operational, improve its infrastructure and foster the development of its intermodal services?

Submitted: 17.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 August 2025)**

1. The Commission cannot communicate on potential information submitted by Member States, beyond what is publicly available.

2. According to EU rules ⁽¹⁾, a Member State may impose a public service obligation (PSO) between an airport in the EU and an airport serving a peripheral or development region in its territory or on a thin route to any airport on its territory considered vital for the economic and social development of the region. By imposing a PSO, the Member State can set fixed standards of continuity, regularity, pricing or minimum capacity, if the market itself does not deliver an acceptable level of air services to such regions.

Italy has imposed PSOs on the routes Comiso-Rome and Comiso-Milan from 1 November 2025 ⁽²⁾. The tender ⁽³⁾, aimed at selecting the operator(s) of the PSO routes, is ongoing. The Commission is not aware of any delays in the tender procedure.

3. The Commission supports airports in their green transition, in particular to incentivise the deployment of renewable and low-carbon fuels, feeding stationary aircrafts with electricity, and greening ground movements at airports. EU funding is provided through a number of instruments, notably the framework Programme for research and innovation (Horizon Europe ⁽⁴⁾), the Connecting Europe Facility ⁽⁵⁾, the InvestEU programme ⁽⁶⁾ (in cooperation with European Investment Bank and other implementing partners), the Innovation Fund ⁽⁷⁾, and the Structural Funds (for investments at regional airports and in outermost regions aimed at environmental impact mitigation, as well as security, safety, and air traffic management systems).

¹ https://www.enac.gov.it/app/uploads/2024/04/152-157_comiso.pdf.

² <https://www.ragusaoggi.it/lo-strano-destino-dellaeroporto-di-comiso-prima-parte/>.

⁽¹⁾ Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community, OJ L 293, 31.10.2008, p. 3-20.

⁽²⁾ See information notice (C/2025/2268) published in the EU Official Journal on 11 April 2025.

⁽³⁾ See information notices (C/2025/2273 and C/2025/2275) published in the EU Official Journal on 11 April 2025.

⁽⁴⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 249, 14/07/2021, p. 38-81.

⁽⁶⁾ https://investeu.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/eu-funding-climate-action/innovation-fund_en.