

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.9.2025)

In 2024, the Commission launched a Fitness Check¹ of the legislation concerning airports and airport capacity. The Fitness Check is looking backward to assess the functioning of the Airport Charges Directive², Slot Regulation³ and the Groundhandling Directive⁴, and see whether current rules are promoting the efficient use of airport capacity. EU airport legislation needs to contribute to a well-functioning EU aviation market that delivers competitive and sustainable services and connectivity to consumers. Adequate competition and a level playing field between airports, airlines and other service providers, is one of the specific objectives against which the legislation is being evaluated.

The Fitness Check will also consider the Draghi report's warning about outdated slot rules hindering competitiveness and the shift to cleaner aviation among other relevant issues.

An Open Public Consultation was launched on 5 August 2025 to gather feedback from stakeholders and the wider public, remaining open until 28 October 2025.

The Fitness Check is expected to be finalised towards the end of 2025. Based on the outcome of that analysis, the Commission will decide on next steps such as whether there is a need to change the legislation, including the Slot Regulation. If the Commission decides to launch an impact assessment process to explore specific possible legislative solutions, indications of possible timing could be given at that time.

Given the link with the Commission's overall competitiveness priority also for this sector, Commission is indeed also following up on this in the context of tracking progress in implementing the recommendations from the Draghi report and the Competitiveness Compass.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14193-Aviation-fitness-check-of-EU-airport-legislation_en.

² Directive 2009/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on airport charges, *OJ L 70*, 14.3.2009, pp. 11–16.

³ Council Regulation (EEC) No 95/93 of 18 January 1993 on common rules for the allocation of slots at Community airports, *OJ L 14*, 22.1.1993, pp. 1–6.

⁴ Council Directive 96/67/EC of 15 October 1996 on access to the groundhandling market at Community airports, *OJ L 272*, 25.10.1996, pp. 36–45.