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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
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According to the investigation and verification by the Bulgarian Air Traffic Services Authority, the aircraft carrying the President of the Commission to Bulgaria experienced Global Positioning System (GPS) interference. Despite this, the plane landed safely. The Bulgarian Prime Minister also issued a statement¹ confirming the radio interference during the President's flight.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) jamming and spoofing occurrences in Bulgaria and other eastern flank Member States have increased, impacting EU aircraft and vessels. This phenomenon is common in regions surrounding conflict zones, from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

European aviation has set up operational procedures and mitigations to maintain safety in case of interferences of GNSS services. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has issued guidance with recommended mitigations to civil aviation authorities, pilots, air navigation service providers, and manufacturers. EASA is also closely monitoring the situation and is ready to mandate measures to ensure safety if it deteriorates further.

To prevent future navigation disturbances and in line with Article 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union², the Commission is exploring measures to strengthen resilience of EU GNSS system, including gradually deploying Galileo services³ and reinforcing Galileo with Low Earth Orbits (LEO-PNT) component, included in the Commission proposal for a regulation for a European Competitiveness Fund⁴. This will ensure the safety and security of thousands of flights in civil aviation, while protecting the EU citizens and economy from increased GNSS interference threats.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUdi4z0l6D0>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12016E189>.

³ The Open Service Navigation Message Authentication (OSNMA) is a data authentication function for the Galileo Open Service worldwide users, freely accessible to all as of July 2025. The upcoming encrypted Public Regulated Service (PRS) will offer secure support to governmental users.

⁴ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund ('ECF'), including the specific programme for defence research and innovation activities, repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/522, (EU) 2021/694, (EU) 2021/697, (EU) 2021/783, repealing provisions of Regulations (EU) 2021/696, (EU) 2023/588, and amending Regulation (EU) [EDIP]: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0555>.