

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000820/26
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(26 February 2026)**

Subject: Ability of passengers and workers to request independent expert's opinion on state of public transport

The derailments and train collisions at Tempi in the Greek regional unit of Larissa and in Adamuz in the Spanish province of Córdoba, demonstrate that the existing framework of preventive safety measures is not sufficient to avoid such tragedies, even though there had been warning signs, which unfortunately were overlooked.

Similar red flags have been raised from time to time for other means of public transport too, for instance the repeated technical failures in the air navigation systems of the Greek Civil Aviation Authority.

Given that, under Article 90 TEU, the Commission can put forward legislative initiatives on transport safety policies in the EU, as has repeatedly been the case with Regulations (EU) 2021/782, (EC) 261/2004, (EU) 1177/2010 and (EU) 181/2011, can the Commission answer the following:

Is it prepared to establish provisions whereby passengers and public transport workers would be entitled, under certain conditions, to request an independent, non-state expert's opinion for the purpose of assessing safety risks and informing European passengers whenever there are worrying signs of infrastructure failure or inadequate staff training that endanger the lives or safety of passengers and workers?

Submitted: 26.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(6 May 2026)**

The Commission agrees that social partners like passengers or staff of transport companies may deliver valuable insights concerning possible safety risks for the operation of the transport system. In the Commission's view however, the existing legal framework already provides for possibilities to adequately involve such actors.

In the area of railways, Regulation (EU) 2018/762⁽¹⁾ requires that the safety management system (SMS) of railway undertakings and infrastructure managers covers mechanisms for consultation of staff.

Additionally, in line with Article 33 and Article 35(5) of Regulation (EU) 2016/796⁽²⁾, the EU Agency for Railways (ERA) has certain monitoring powers towards national safety authorities and Member States.

When preparing these assessments, ERA takes into account data coming from various sources, including from social partners. Similarly, social partners may request the Commission that it triggers an assessment according to Article 35(5) of the above Regulation.

In the area of civil aviation, the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Basic Regulation⁽³⁾ is the legal framework for safety. More generally, all citizens are entitled to raise complaints with the Commission if they believe an EU country has infringed EASA Basic Regulation or any other EU law.

The Commission is of the view that the existing legislation allows for citizens' complaints to be taken into account when it comes to the assessment of safety concerns and thus it has no intention to propose any further legislation on the issue at this stage.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/762 of 8 March 2018 establishing common safety methods on safety management system requirements pursuant to Directive (EU) 2016/798 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Regulations (EU) No 1158/2010 and (EU) No 1169/2010, OJ L 129 25.5.2018, p. 26, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2018/762.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/796 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Railways and repealing Regulation (EC) No 881/2004, OJ L 138, 26.5.2016, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/796>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency, and amending Regulations (EC) No 2111/2005, (EC) No 1008/2008, (EU) No 996/2010, (EU) No 376/2014 and Directives 2014/30/EU and 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 552/2004 and (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EEC) No 3922/91, OJ L 212 22.8.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1139>.