

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission has not undertaken such analyses. The effects that airports may have on their surroundings are, however, reflected in several strands of EU legislation. This includes Directive 2002/49/EC on environmental noise¹, Regulation (EU) No 598/2014 which sets rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports² and a growing body of air quality, environmental assessment and nature legislation. This allows the Commission to monitor environmental and infrastructure-related impacts of airport activity.

The detailed assessment of local social, planning and budgetary consequences for municipalities remains, under the principle of subsidiarity, primarily a matter for national, regional and local authorities. In any event, several studies show that air connectivity enabled by airports is key for growth, jobs, social cohesion and vital for EU regions³. In 2025, a report on the impact of Polish airports on regions found that Kraków-Balice airport had a direct impact of PLN 470,7 million on the Małopolska region's economy and an induced impact of PLN 240 million and 1.700 jobs, bringing a gross value added of PLN 1,56 billion to the Polish economy⁴.

The Commission has not proposed a dedicated financial mechanism for this purpose. Under the next multiannual financial framework, support for such investments may be available through different EU funding programmes in line with the objectives and rules of the relevant funds. Any supported project will need to comply with relevant EU environmental legislation.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/49/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/598/oj/eng>.

³ <https://www.aci-europe.org/downloads/content/ACI%20EUROPE%20SYNOPSIS%20-%20BENEFITS%20OF%20AIRPORTS%20%20AIR%20CONNECTIVITY%20digital.pdf>, 2024; InterVISTAS, 2015, *Economic Impact of European Airports – A Critical Catalyst to Economic Growth*.

⁴ Impact of Polish airports on regions 2025 Study by Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR Sp. z o.o., commissioned by Polish Airports PPL, available at https://www.polish-airports.com/uploads/user_files/raporty_2025/A4%20RAPORT%20wpływ%20całosc%20final%202022.10%20v2%20web.pdf.