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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(15.9.2026)

The Commission remains in contact with the Greek authorities in relation to the modernisation and reform of its railway sector, including deployment of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS). The Commission is aware of the ambitious ERTMS roll-out plans. Given the complexity of this process, the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), at the request of Greece, is supporting stakeholders in developing an effective ERTMS deployment plan.

Railway safety can be achieved through a combination of different technical and organisational measures. The deployment on the rail network of European Train Control System (ETCS), a key component of ERTMS, contributes to the improvement of safety of the railway system; however, railway networks can also safely operate without ETCS, provided that appropriate alternative risk control measures are implemented.

On 16 December 2024, the Commission opened infringement proceedings (INFR(2023)2036<sup>1</sup>) against Greece for failure to comply with the requirements of the Rail Safety Directive<sup>2</sup>. The infringement case addresses several long-standing systemic shortcomings in the implementation of the Safety Directive in Greece, also identified during an audit by ERA. In response to the audit report, the Greek authorities have prepared in 2024 an Action Plan to address these shortcomings, which is being implemented, and the Commission is monitoring progress on the basis of regular reports received from Greece.

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<sup>1</sup> Press release: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf\\_24\\_6006](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_24_6006).

<sup>2</sup> Directive (EU) 2016/798 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on railway safety (recast), ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/798/oj>.