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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.8.2025)

The European aviation network is experiencing significant congestions, with delays due to air traffic control well above the EU level performance targets.

Some air navigation service providers are significantly lagging behind in the recruitment of air traffic controllers and in modernising their air traffic management systems. This has resulted in serious capacity shortages, especially in some area control centres of the busiest areas of European airspace.

The fourth reference period of the EU performance scheme prioritises addressing the capacity shortages faced by air navigation service providers and thus gradually restoring a good level of service quality for airspace users. It is crucial that air navigation service providers effectively implement the capacity-enhancement measures set out in their performance plans. The Network Manager set up at EU level will ensure the active coordination support and monitoring of operational activities to ensure the best possible performance of the aviation management network.

The achievement of the performance targets is monitored both at EU level by the Commission and at national level by national supervisory authorities. Those authorities will take appropriate measures where the performance targets are not met, or risk not being met. The Commission will closely liaise with the national supervisory authorities and will be particularly attentive to the timely implementation of the planned capacity-enhancement measures.