

**Question for written answer E-000035/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: The Ryanair flight to Thessaloniki which landed in Romania

Due to severe weather conditions, on 4 January 2018 Ryanair flight RYR8582 from London to Thessaloniki, with 201 passengers on board, landed in Timișoara, Romania, eight hundred kilometres away from its scheduled destination, while other companies landed in Skopje or Sofia.

The flight could have landed in other nearby airports (Kavala, Alexandroupolis or Ioannina) which were open. However, Ryanair chose the cheapest airport.

Where civil aviation and airports are run by businesses, including 'low-cost' companies, operating according to the criterion of profit and on a cost-benefit basis, which is the declared core of the policies pursued by the EU and bourgeois governments, the consequences can be dramatic.

By joint decision of the Troika and successive Greek governments (SYRIZA-ANEL, ND-PASOK), 'Macedonia' Airport, was ceded to Fraport. Its investments are supposed to be used to modernise the airport. Two years later, nothing has been done about the basic shortcoming of the airport, the lack of an effective system for approaching the airport safely in fog. Many flights are cancelled, while Fraport celebrates its huge profits from this and other airports it has acquired in Greece in cooperation with Greek conglomerates.

How does the Commission view the fact that that the policy of deregulation of air transport and airport privatisation implemented by the EU and national governments has such devastating consequences? Does it consider that the companies in question should be immediately fined and ordered to pay compensation to those affected?