

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3987/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Creation of a Greek air navigation supervisory authority

Representatives of air traffic controllers at Athens airport recently protested against frequent interference in the Civil Aviation Service radio communications frequencies. Sometimes this makes it difficult to exercise of effective air traffic control in large sections of the Greek FIR, resulting in aeroplanes flying without guidance from the ground. Under Regulation (EC) 549/2004¹ of 10 March 2004, laying down the framework for the creation of the single European sky, the Member States are obliged to set up an independent national supervisory authority, responsible for certification of provision and continuing inspection of air navigation services.

The Commission has already brought proceedings against Greece in the European Court of Justice (ECJ) for not having ensured that an independent supervisory authority was set up, and it intends soon to bring a second case before the ECJ, given that the deadline for certification of operators providing air navigation services expired on 21 June.

On the basis of the above, I put the following questions to the Commission.

1. What stage has been reached in the procedure to set up the Greek supervisory authority and for certification of operators providing air navigation services?
2. What are the possible consequences for air navigation service providers, if they do not have the certification that the Greek supervisory authority is supposed to provide?
3. To what extent does this situation affect the smooth and safe operation of air traffic over the territory of Europe and the interoperability of the European air traffic management network, in line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) 552/2004²?

¹ OJ L 96, 31.3.2004, p.1

² OJ L 96, 31.3.2004, p.26