

**Question for written answer E-000101/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Konstantinos Papadakis (NI)**

Subject: Unacceptable contract for the construction of Kastelli airport in Crete

The construction of Kastelli airport in Crete forms part of the unacceptable policy of privatising air transport that serves the interests of the EU and the SYRIZA-ANEL government and secures guaranteed profits for monopolistic business groupings. The consortium awarded the design, construction and management of the project will have guaranteed profits from government funding, while also taking advantage of the anti-labour laws of the current and previous governments to pay its employees rock-bottom wages and gather inflated fees for the huge cost of building a new airport. Once more it will be ordinary people who foot the bill. The project is also linked to NATO's dangerous spying plans that are intensifying as the EU is becoming increasingly militarised, with transport forming an important part of that development.

At the same time, local residents are complaining that the construction of the new airport will have a huge impact, not only on agricultural production, since 1 200 hectares of agricultural land will be cleared, but also on the environment, due to emissions of carbon dioxide, heavy metals and other substances that pose a public health risk and the contamination of the groundwater. This has been the subject of vociferous protests.

Bearing in mind that this is a project undertaken to secure profits for business conglomerates and to promote the dangerous military plans being hatched by NATO and the EU, how does the Commission view the unacceptable contract for the construction of Kastelli airport and the many adverse consequences it will have for the inhabitants of this region and indeed the whole of Crete?