

**Question for written answer E-000908/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE)

Subject: State aid for regional airports

The ongoing pandemic and new travel restrictions, including governments discouraging or banning non-essential travel, have had a devastating impact on regional air connectivity. One year into the crisis, almost 200 regional airports may be at risk of insolvency. These airports provide 277 000 jobs and EUR 12.4 billion of GDP. The threat of airport closures means Europe faces the prospect of a collapse of a significant part of its air transport system – unless Member States step up to provide the required support. So far, few Member States have done so.

Moreover, the extension of the various options available to Member States outside the scope of EU State aid control was granted until 31 December 2020.

1. Against this background, does the Commission recognise the urgent need to preserve and restore the viability of regional airports, and the necessity to extend the temporary framework for Member States beyond the above mentioned date?
2. Is the Commission evaluating the revision of State aid rules for regional airports in order to facilitate the extension of short inter-regional flights provided by small zero-emissions planes?