

**Question for written answer E-002324/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Johan Danielsson (S&D)**

**Subject:** The working conditions of air traffic controllers in Albania

After a dispute over pay cuts in Albania, several air traffic controllers (ATCOs) declared that they were physically and mentally unable to work due to undue stress following the salary cuts and uncertainties of the pandemic. The Prime Minister of Albania declared the strike to be illegal and urged the ATCOs to return to work, warning that those who failed to do so would be dismissed. In addition, the Albanian Government sent military and police forces, which resulted in several ATCOs being held in police custody; two remain in prison and one under house arrest.

The Convention on International Civil Aviation prohibits ATCOs from exercising the privileges of their licences and related ratings if they are aware of any decrease in their physical or mental fitness, as stress and fatigue can lead to poor judgement. The measures taken by the Albanian Government are therefore clearly contrary to both international and European safety regulations as they put the ATCOs under additional pressure, which compromises aviation safety.

Given that Albania is aspiring to EU membership, how will the Commission ensure that Albania complies with EU regulations and engages in social dialogue with ATCOs?