

**Priority question for written answer P-000743/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Elena Kountoura** (The Left)

Subject: ERA report finds violations of EU legislation on railway safety

In the Commission's reply<sup>1</sup> to a previous question<sup>2</sup> I had put to it concerning the Tempi train crash, it said that it is examining the ad-hoc report it had requested from the EU Agency for Railways (ERA) regarding railway interoperability and safety<sup>3</sup> in Greece. It added that if EU law was found to have been violated, it would act accordingly, using the powers vested in it by the Treaties.

In view of the crucial findings from the ERA report, which were leaked to the Greek press,<sup>4</sup> in particular the fact that:

- Greece lacks a clear system for ensuring railway safety in general because this duty has not been effectively conferred in practice and there is no one who actually performs it;
- no assurance is given that the infrastructure managers and rail companies bear the responsibility – each within their own area of responsibility – for the safe operation of the railway system and the monitoring of risks associated with it;
- the procedure for defining and communicating safety regulations is not implemented consistently and can lead to increased risks;
- Greece still lacks a functioning railway accident investigation body and there is no guarantee of an independent investigation into serious accidents despite this being a requirement under the relevant EU directive.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Has it concluded its investigation?
2. Is Greece in violation of EU legislation on railway safety and interoperability?
3. When does it plan to publish ERA's ad-hoc report?

Submitted: 7.3.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Answer given by Ms Vălean on behalf of the European Commission (17.1.2024) (ELE-002730/2023) [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002730-ASW\\_EL.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002730-ASW_EL.html).

<sup>2</sup> (20.9.2023) Subject: 'European Union Agency for Railways finds breaches of EU law' (002730/2023/rev.1) [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002730\\_EL.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002730_EL.html).

<sup>3</sup> Directive (EU) 2016/797 on the interoperability of the rail system within the European Union and Directive (EU) 2016/798 on railway safety in Greece.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.powergame.gr/ikonomia/614806/apokleistiko-to-teliko-porisma-tou-era-gia-tin-asfaleia-tou-sidirodromou/>