

**Question for written answer E-001464/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: IFALPA and Nicosia FIR

According to an article published in the newspaper 'Phileleftheros'¹, the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) has released a document outlining the dangers that continue to affect flights in the Flight Information Region (FIR) of Nicosia. These include radio interference from the illegal Ercan International Airport and the Turkish air traffic controllers' refusal to cooperate and communicate with their Cypriot counterparts.

As the document outlines, the interference from the illegal Ercan International Airport threatens the safety of the Nicosia, Beirut and Damascus FIRs. IFALPA has instructed its national and regional pilot associations in the area to exert the greatest pressure on the authorities involved to ensure that every safety incident is referred to the appropriate air traffic control centre, with a copy of every report being forwarded to IFALPA for information.

Taking into account the gravity of the situation (as stated by IFALPA and reiterated by relevant international and European bodies) and the fact that the Commission's interventions have not yielded any results, what direct and effective measures will the Commission take to exert pressure on Turkey to comply with international law, ensure that flights can operate safely, and thus protect the lives of thousands of passengers?

¹ <http://www.philenews.com/koinonia/eidiseis/article/668299/sobara-themata-asfaleias-sto-fir-log-ertzian>