

**Question for written answer E-016059/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)

Subject: Greek programmes for unprofitable scheduled air services

In accordance with Regulation (EC) 1008/2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community, Greece imposed a public service obligation on 24 unprofitable scheduled air services for the period from 01/04/2012 to 31/03/2016.

It is essential to maintain adequate scheduled air services on specific routes to ensure both the connectivity of Greek regions with the centre of the country, since they contribute to economic and tourist development, and equal treatment and services for the inhabitants of remote areas EU.

Given that these programmes for unprofitable routes are due to expire in March 2016, will the Commission say:

1. Has the Greek side initiated the procedures for renewing these programmes, bearing in mind that, under the Regulation, the renewal of the programmes of public service obligations on scheduled routes is time-consuming, as they need to be published at least 60 days before the announcement of the tenders procedure?
2. To what extent does the Commission allow the extension of existing public service obligation programmes?