

Question for written answer E-015924/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Continuation of programmes for scheduled air services on unprofitable lines in remote and isolated areas in Greece

Articles 16, 17 and 18 of Regulation 1008/2008 provide for programmes that 'may impose a public service obligation' in respect of scheduled air services on unprofitable routes to serve the inhabitants of remote and isolated regions that do not have the same travel opportunities as other citizens.

In Greece, there are 24 programmes for unprofitable lines which are due to expire in March 2016. Local authorities are concerned, as these lines are crucial to ensure adequate services for residents of these areas.

Since, under the Regulation, these programmes have to be published at least 60 days before the announcement of the call for tenders and they are due to be renewed in the near future and given that, if the programmes are not renewed, there will be period during which the areas in question are no longer linked to mainland Greece and the Regulation will therefore not be fully implemented, as the residents of islands such as Kythera will not have the same travel opportunities as other EU residents:

Will the Commission say:

What action will it take to ensure the smooth continuation of existing programmes for unprofitable lines and the inclusion of scheduled air services connecting the islands with mainland Greece (e.g. Kythira-Athens) as public service obligations?