



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AUTHORITY**

Current Cyberattack Situation in European Airports

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Executive Summary

Recently, the aviation sector has experienced a significant acceleration in cyberattacks, with major operational incidents affecting critical systems such as check-in services, baggage management, and flight information displays. Recent events impacting major European airports point out the increased exposure to risk due to third-party provider reliance

On September 20–21, 2025, an as-yet unclassified cyberattack targeted systems used for check-in and baggage drop-off, causing delays and cancellations at major European airports, including Heathrow (London), Zaventem (Brussels), and Berlin Airport. The attack affected the Muse software by Collins Aerospace, which provides check-in desk services for several airlines and airports. Collins Aerospace (a unit of RTX Group) confirmed it is dealing with a “cybersecurity-related incident” and is working to restore services; national cybersecurity authorities and law enforcement are involved in the investigation. Airports have advised passengers to check the status of their flights before traveling. At Brussels Airport, the cyberattack led to the cancellation of about half of the scheduled flights for one day, causing long delays for travelers. Flights were delayed for several hours, and some were postponed entirely.

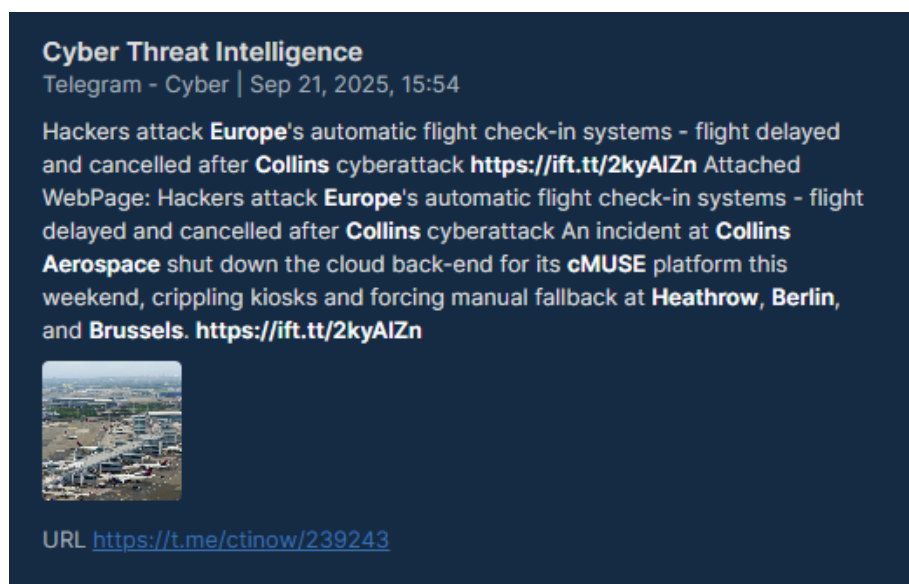


Figure 1: Insights from cyber intelligence

In total, several major European airports were affected, leading to a series of delays and cancellations impacting hundreds of flights. According to various media sources, Flightradar24 reported that approximately 629 flights were affected during the wave of disruptions. At Heathrow (London), delays were recorded for about 90% of over 350 flights, with an average delay of around 34 minutes. In Brussels, 25 departures were canceled on Saturday (September 20), 50 on Sunday (September 21), and authorities requested airlines to cancel around 140 departures for Monday—representing roughly half of the scheduled departures for that day.

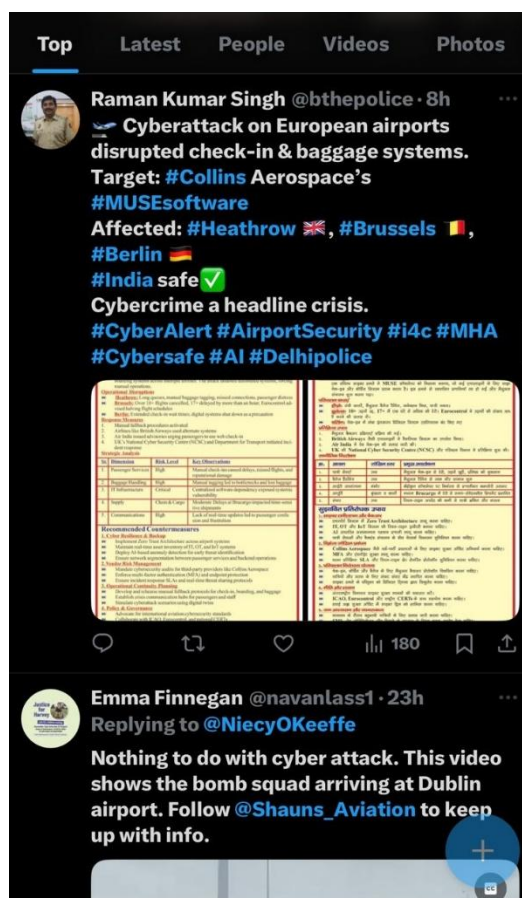


Figure 2: Communications on the X network

During the same period, other reports indicated cyber incidents targeting entities in Russia, including enterprises and airport websites such as Pulkovo (St. Petersburg), as well as operational issues for several regional airlines (Recorded Future / The Record report). These incidents have been reported as separate from the events in Western Europe, but they indicate a prolonged wave of attacks against airport infrastructure

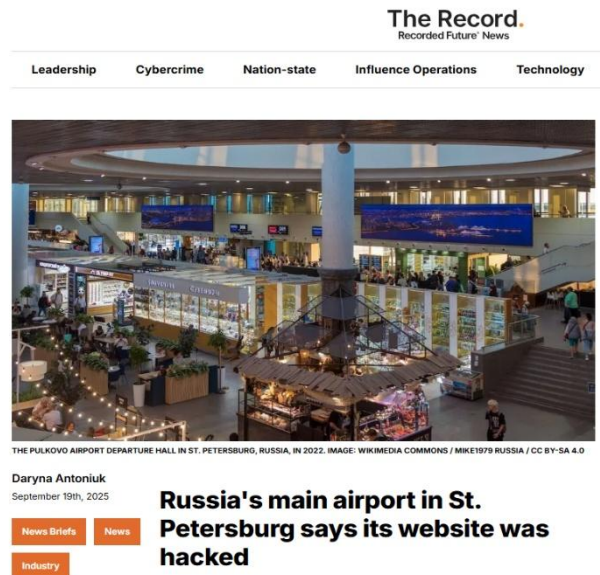


Figure 3: Events in Russia

What is the potential impact on Albania?

Albania, as a small country with a centralized airport infrastructure (primarily Rinas/Tirana, plus Kukës Airport and other smaller ports), faces potential consequences from such events. The actual impact depends on two main factors:

Use of the same third-party providers — If Albanian operators (airports or airlines flying to/from Albania) use the same solutions that were targeted (or similar third-party software), the risk of local disruptions increases.

Smaller airports have limited human resources and manual processes; a disruption of check-in systems could cause prolonged blockages, especially when international flights are coordinated with major airlines. Cybersecurity capabilities are also limited. Technological tools must be among the most advanced, including the application of the Zero Trust principle, to avoid being affected by *supply chain attacks*.

For Albania, priorities include supplier verification, preparation of cyber incident response procedures, strengthening national coordination for incident management, and reporting incidents to the National Cybersecurity Authority.

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