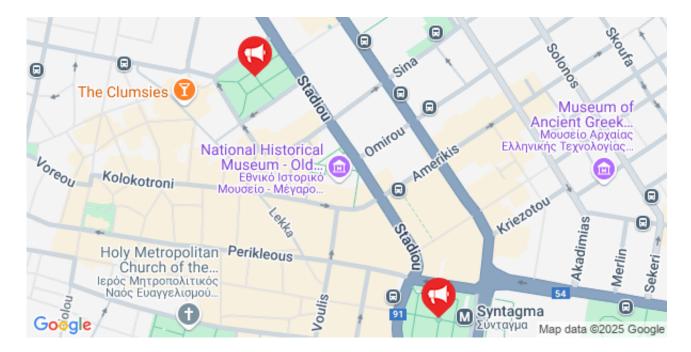


## **Protest**



**O7**APR
13:00 UTC

Greece Tactical: Nationwide multi-sector strikes, protests in Athens slated on April 9; avoid nonessential travel

## **Current Situation**

- Reports indicate that large scale multi-sector strikes, and associated protests are slated to take place nationwide, including in Athens, on April 9.
- Unionized public sector workers associated with several unions, including the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) and the Civil Servants' Confederation (ADEDY) union, have called for a 24-hour general strike on April 9. Teachers will also be joining the strike action.
- The strikes and protest actions are being called to demand an increase in wages in the public sector and better working conditions. Organizers are also denouncing government corruption, with several groups calling for accountability for the February 2023 Tempi railway collision.

Source: 902.gr

An associated protest will take place at Klafthmonos Square in Athens at 11:00 (local time) on April
 9.

Source: Powergame

 Additionally, the Panhellenic Federation of Local Government Employees (POE-OTA) has called for a protest at Syntagma Square, in front of the Ministry of Finance at 10:30 on April 9. Other associations, groups, and unions are expected to partake in the protest.



Source: <u>Dnews</u>

- The Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) has announced that all categories of ships will remain docked as PNO members participate in the strike, affecting maritime transport nationwide.
- The Hellenic Air Traffic Controllers Association (HCAA) has announced that air traffic controllers will join the strike, leading to the cancellation of all commercial passenger flights to and from Greek airports, including Athens International Airport (ATH) and Thessaloniki Airport (SKG) on April 9.
- Public transportation will also be affected nationwide, including buses, trains, and trolleys. Buses and trolleys will operate only between 09:00 and 21:00. However, trains including cargo and passenger will not be operating on April 9.
- Additionally, the Board of Directors of the Panhellenic Federation of Editors (POESY) has announced the strike of journalists in all media outlets from 05:00 on April 8 to 05:00 on April 9.

Source: News247

## **Assessments & Forecast**

- 1. Given precedent, the protests in Athens are likely to attract a turnout in the high thousands to low tens of thousands each. Additionally, associated protests in other cities are likely, including in Thessaloniki, with turnouts ranging from high hundreds to mid thousands each.
- 2. Considering heightened sentiments over the issue, coupled with the expected participation of farleft and anarchist activists given the calls for government accountability for the Tempi collision, these protests carry a heightened risk of unrest. Based on precedent, incidents of unrest are likely to manifest as clashes between protesters and police. Radical far-left actors may throw projectiles, including Molotov cocktails and glass bottles, at security forces. The risk of vandalism targeting nearby property also remains.
- 3. Given this, a bolstered security presence is expected to be deployed near Klafthmonos Square and Syntagma Square as a precautionary measure. Authorities are also liable to keep riot police on standby and will respond with forcible crowd control measures, such as the use of batons, tear gas, and mass arrests, in the event of escalating unrest.
- 4. Severe disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures, are likely near Klafthmonos Square and Syntagma Square in Athens from the morning hours onwards.
- 5. With the labor actions being widely adhered to, disruptions to multiple sectors, including public transportation and aviation, can be anticipated nationwide, including in Athens.
- 6. As such, delays, cancellations, and long wait times are expected at airports and ports. Disruptions may continue after the strike due to backlogs. Increased demand for taxis and rental vehicles is expected, along with heavier-than-usual traffic as more commuters rely on personal transport.
- 7. Disruptions to maritime and aviation are also likely to impact cargo movement, posing short-term supply chain disruptions for businesses dependent on timely imports or exports.

## Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Athens on April 9 are advised to avoid nonessential travel near Klafthmonos Square and Syntagma Square from the morning hours onwards due to the high risk of unrest at the protests.
- 2. Allot for associated travel-related disruptions.
- 3. Allot for disruptions to rail, air, and other public services due to the work stoppages and labor actions.
- 4. Those intending to travel via Greek airports on April 9 are advised to reconfirm itineraries with their respective airlines due to the strike action by air traffic control workers.