

**Question for written answer E-007344/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy (S&D)**

Subject: Rail networks in south-east Europe

The creation of a single railway area is one of the Commission's long-term objectives, but there are glaring disparities between networks in western Europe and those in eastern Europe. By way of an example, the approximately 350 km journey between Sofia and Bucharest takes almost 11 hours. Connections with countries bordering on the EU are also very bad: a journey between Belgrade and Bucharest now takes 28 hours to cover what should be a distance of just 600 km, as poor upkeep has left the direct route unusable.

Well-maintained rail networks are absolutely essential for the economic development of eastern Europe, particularly as road networks in the region are already saturated, and they would also benefit the Union as a whole.

1. What specific action will the Commission take to promote networks which can be used to transport passengers and freight?
2. Will it focus on cross-border services in particular, as they are the commonest weak link in trans-European transport networks?