

**Question for written answer E-007353/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)**

**Subject:** Continued operation of the Gijon-St Nazaire motorway of the sea

Complex challenges need to be addressed in various fields when promoting sustainable development in Europe. In the case of transport, the White Paper on EU transport policy set ambitious objectives which have resulted in initiatives such as the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-Ts), the aim of which is to create efficient transport systems that serve as linchpins for the European internal market.

One such network is the Motorways of the Sea, which includes the Gijon-St Nazaire (FRES MOS) motorway on the Atlantic Arc and which is subsidised by Spain and France and, to a lesser extent, under the Marco Polo Programme. With the subsidies for this short-distance seaway coming to an end, the operator, GLD Atlantique, decided recently to stop managing the motorway, despite the fact that the Gijon Port Authority has said it remains viable, with traffic volumes at around 70% of capacity.

Presuming that this initiative is in line with the objectives of EU transport policy, and given its importance for the strategic and economic development of this major European region, what is the Commission's stance on the continued operation of the Gijon-St Nazaire motorway of the sea?