

**Question for written answer E-009502/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Claudia Schmidt (PPE)

Subject: Shifting of road freight to rail or waterborne transport

In the White Paper on European transport policy COM(2011)0144, the European Commission adopts a comprehensive strategy for a competitive transport system that improves mobility, eliminates important obstacles in key areas and should bring about more growth and employment. At the same time, the proposals made are designed to drastically reduce Europe's dependency on oil imports and reduce CO₂ emissions from transport by 60 % by 2050.

According to the White Paper, the present transport system in Europe needs to be overhauled if these objectives are to be achieved. The most important objectives for 2050 include shifting 50 % of medium-haul freight traffic to rail or waterborne transport. The stated aim is to shift 30 % of road freight over 300 km to rail or waterborne transport by 2030. However, the ratio of medium-haul and long-haul road freight to total transport services in the Union has still remained high over recent years.

1. What specific measures (other than infrastructure expansion) have been provided for in order to achieve freight shifting targets?
2. What technical grounds provide evidence that the objectives will demonstrably be achieved with the planned measures and strategies?