

**Question for written answer E-009504/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Claudia Schmidt (PPE)**

Subject: Liberalisation of rail transport

The aim of the Commission's railway packages is to liberalise and increase the competitiveness of rail transport as a whole in the Member States. For example, they prescribe access to the networks for all service providers, regulate the centralisation of authorisation procedures and safety standards at the European Railway Agency and prescribe tendering for all services.

Despite these standards, considerable difficulties have arisen in practice, especially with the interoperability of rail transport, as the new line in the Lower Inn Valley illustrates. That section of line was fitted with the ETCS safety system, which at present can only be used by Austrian Federal Railways trains and not by private railway companies.

In view of this situation, will the Commission say what further steps it plans to take in order to achieve cross-border interoperability of trains?