

Question for written answer E-009505/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Claudia Schmidt (PPE)

Subject: Capacity utilisation of new rail projects

The trend towards rail freight is currently declining throughout Europe. Following an upswing in the years 2005 to 2010 (when the proportion of rail freight rose from 23 % to 36 %), the modal split in the Brenner corridor has again fallen sharply recently (only 29 % in 2013). At present, approximately 180 trains a day run on the German/Austria border section of the Brenner corridor, compared to a capacity of around 220 trains/day. The Brenner Base Tunnel and access routes are designed to carry over double that (484 trains/day).

What can be done to ensure that full use will be made in future of the capacity of sections of railway line currently at the construction or planning stage and to reverse the negative trend?