

**Question for written answer E-009679/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Renata Briano (S&D), Elena Gentile (S&D), Elly Schlein (S&D) and Daniele Viotti (S&D)

Subject: Extension of motorway concessions in Italy

Legislative Decree No 133/2014 ('Unlock Italy') has launched a review of motorway concessions in Italy, which should result in new investments and more favourable toll charges for users without generating any direct costs for the State budget.

This Decree implicitly allows an extension of the original terms of the concessions: this has been justified by the competent minister on the grounds that it is the only alternative to increasing toll charges, given the need for new investments.

According to a calculation published on the news website 'lavoce.info', the value of the extensions for the concession-holders is EUR 16 billion.

In the absence of adequate standards of transparency and fair competition, the substantive review of motorway concessions to private interests envisaged by the 'Unlock Italy' Decree looks set to favour large concessionary companies, instead of ensuring that citizens and businesses obtain an efficient service, better rates and conditions of access and appropriate investments. This is in breach of European law.

This is why the Commission has requested clarifications from the Italian Government.

Does the Commission consider that this decision may be inconsistent with its appeal to Italy to carry out structural reforms to make the Italian economy more competitive and transparent?