

Question for written answer E-001301/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Fourth railway package

Two of the objectives of the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on rail liberalisation, which is being discussed at present in Parliament's Committee on Transport, are to promote trains as the means of transport that will best reduce CO₂ emissions and as a choice that would relieve congestion on Europe's roads, highways and motorways. While our party can support these two objectives, we certainly do not believe that a privately-owned rail company run on purely business criteria will contribute to this.

A train service that is a private business will, firstly, put up prices, thus discouraging its use, and secondly, may well stop serving many rural areas, the result in both cases being that train travel will no longer be considered by less well-off travellers. In view of this, what criteria or references have led to the assumption that privatisation of national rail passenger services will promote their use?