

**Question for written answer E-001356/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: Construction of a railway tunnel through the Učka mountain

There has been a plan for several decades to build a railway tunnel through the Učka mountain in Istria which would provide the shortest rail route from the County of Istria to the major Croatian port of Rijeka and the shortest rail route to the capital, Zagreb. The framework feasibility study of connecting north Adriatic ports by a high-efficiency railway, which was made for the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar in December 2014, provided three possibilities of connecting the port of Rijeka to the port of Koper in Slovenia and that of Trieste in Italy. Two of these options traverse the County of Istria and assume the construction of a 1 590 m or 1 574 m long tunnel.

There were even gala openings of the works, but the latter were never seriously undertaken. The future railway tunnel through Učka is charted in the regional plan of Croatia and the Istrian County, but the construction never started due to lack of funds. The Istrian County railways are specific in that they have no link with other railway lines in Croatia but only with Slovenia, which further aggravates their position.

1. I ask the Commission what programmes and funding opportunities there are for the construction of this railway tunnel, especially taking into account the new investment funds?
2. What is the modus operandi for setting up this project and what procedure would the Commission suggest?