

**Question for written answer E-003356/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: State aid for the completion of the Pedemontana highway

The Pedemontana Lombarda highway is a road network of around 157 km comprising 67 km of motorway, 20 km of ring roads and 70 km of secondary roads. The aim of the project is to harness the potential of the East-West route along Corridor 5 of the EU TEN-T network.

Thus far, only the first section of the route (Section A in the province of Varese) has been built, but with costs so high that most of the public money initially earmarked for the whole route has already been spent. In order to address the financial problem, and seeing as no investors were forthcoming, the Italian government decided to apply Article 18 of Law 183/2011 which provides tax breaks to the extent that the companies who will complete the outstanding work will be exempt from tax.

In August 2014, the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming (CIPE) resolved in favour of a non-repayable public contribution, necessary for the rebalancing of the economic and financial plan, amounting to EUR 393 million. Furthermore, the facilitation measures to compensate for the shortfall in public funding amounted to a one-off payment set at EUR 800 million for the entire duration of the concession.

Does the Commission consider that the CIPE resolution published in the Official Gazette on 30 January 2015 is compliant with the applicable state aid provisions?