

**Question for written answer E-006070/2015
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Funding criteria for European Investment Bank projects

The *Variante Sur Metropolitana de Bilbao*, also known as *Supersur*, is Spain's most expensive motorway in terms of cost per kilometre. The works amounted to EUR 952 million. The Provincial Council of Biscay, the proponent of this infrastructure, requested a loan of EUR 662 million from the European Investment Bank (EIB) for its construction and implementation, which was granted.

Although the initial estimates of the Provincial Council of Biscay were very optimistic and talked of a daily traffic flow of 24 000 vehicles, the actual figure is 11 832, while for the estimated daily traffic flow of 9 400 lorries it is 2 992. Toll revenues are approximately EUR 6 million annually, while maintenance costs amount to EUR 8.9 million. The public debt of the Provincial Council has increased by EUR 700 million due to the construction of this infrastructure, the results of which are somewhat dubious.

In view of the above, my question is what criteria does the EIB follow when approving these types of projects? Are there any audits, on the part of the EIB, to certify the viability/profitability of these projects?