

**Question for written answer E-006536/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Antequera rail loop

In 2010, the Spanish Government began construction in the province of Malaga of a Rail Technology Centre with a view to setting up a R&D reference centre for the high speed rail line.

Following the elections in 2011, the new Government decided to change the nature of the project and to convert it to a PPP project, for which it created the High Technology Rail Testing Centre, *Centro de Ensayos de Alta Tecnología Ferroviaria*, the call for public tenders for which, according to the information available, resulted in no tenders being received.

The European Commission has recently announced an investigation into the High Technology Rail Testing Centre on the grounds that by changing the nature of the project from public to public-private, the aid or subsidies to the companies could constitute competitive advantages.

Therefore, can the Commission state precisely what its reasons were for starting the said investigation? What implications could the investigation have for Spain given the change in the project?