

**Question for written answer E-006801/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ignazio Corrao (EFDD), Daniela Aiuto (EFDD), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD) and Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)

Subject: Protecting the objectives of the National Operational Programme (NOP) and Regional Operational Programme (ROP) 2014-2020 'Infrastructure and networks' now that the A19 motorway in Sicily is impracticable

The A19 Palermo-Catania motorway is classified as European road E932 and links European roads E90 and E45.

The A19, inaugurated in 1975, has made it much faster to travel from Palermo to Catania, thus ending the isolation of inland Sicily.

The A19 has not substantially changed since it was first opened, because no major upgrading has ever been carried out.

The structural failure of the Himera viaduct on the A19 is the latest in a long series of adverse events. In January, the Scoriavacche bridge – which had only been inaugurated a week earlier – collapsed on the main road to Agrigento. Last summer the Petrulla viaduct collapsed on the main road between Licata and Canicatti. On that occasion four motorists were injured.

After inspecting the Himera viaduct, the Italian Minister for Infrastructure said that it would take years to rebuild the 300 metres of motorway and five pillars, while ANAS (the national highways authority) speculates that EUR 30 million will be needed to restore the viaduct.

Since the cohesion policy and the ERDF National Operational Programme and Regional Operational Programme for Sicily (2014-2020) base their strategy for achieving the objectives (set out in the relevant regulations) on existing strategic infrastructure, will the Commission take note of the need to provide adequate resources to safeguard the above-mentioned policies and will it take action with a view to restoring the A19?