

**Question for written answer E-007207/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Assessment of the socio-economic impact of investment in infrastructure

In mid-December 2014, the Court of Auditors of the European Union questioned the Spanish Government's use of EU Cohesion Policy funds for investment in infrastructure, namely eight Spanish airports. This continuing investment policy seems to serve the corporate interests of a political and business alliance more than those of the general population.

The AVE high-speed train was the same type of investment, proving to be ruinous with very few social or economic benefits; an infrastructure essentially limited to transporting passengers and not contributing to the growth of the underdeveloped modal goods transport sector. In short, the general population will indefinitely continue to subsidise travel for the tiny proportion of people with enough purchasing power to buy expensive tickets.

What steps will the Commission take to prevent European funds being wasted on such costly investments?

Is it considering the possibility of introducing a socio-economic impact assessment for these investments to evaluate the social and economic benefits they will bring alongside the mandatory environmental impact assessment?