

**Question for written answer E-007583/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE) and Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal (ALDE)

Subject: Planned rail tunnel across the Strait of Gibraltar

The planned rail tunnel across the Strait of Gibraltar is a vital link in a new international transport system between Europe and Africa and throughout the Mediterranean region. Its prime geographical position means that it can attract major investment in terms of capital and technology, as well as providing an alternative to the traditional trading hubs. The project offers immeasurable benefits to both areas in terms of communications, trade and industry, which would in turn improve the quality of life for millions of people. This link, however, is not seen as a priority within the trans-European transport network.

1. What cost-benefit studies have been carried out as regards the economic and political impact of such a rail network in Africa and in Europe?
2. Is the Commission intending to include this project as one of the priorities in the trans-European transport network?