

**Question for written answer E-008777/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Improving connections between the outermost regions and neighbouring territories

The geostrategic position of the outermost regions gives the EU an expanded presence, from which it could benefit more. The outermost regions represent EU borders and outposts in the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean (the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands) and the southern hemisphere (Réunion). They also offer the EU a shared border with an emerging country: Brazil.

For that reason, there is a need to promote the establishment of air- and sea-transportation links with third countries. This would contribute to diversifying and internationalising their economies by developing neighbourly relations, as well as through development cooperation and combating poverty in their respective areas of influence.

1. How important does the Commission see the outermost regions' geostrategic position, with a view to re-asserting their place in the world?
2. What programmes is the Commission currently developing to make the various outermost regions' more connected in this way?
3. How will this policy of neighbourly relations be promoted?