

**Question for written answer E-011423/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Development of railways as an environmentally-friendly mode of transport

In many Member States the railways are in a state of stagnation or decline. Although progress has been made on some markets, since 2000 the proportion of transport users choosing to travel by rail has remained stuck at around 6 %, while the proportion of freight carried by rail has decreased from 11.5 % to 10.2 %. Given that rail is one of the most environmentally-friendly modes of transport – it produces five times less CO₂ per passenger than car travel – its development should be prioritised.

Plans to create stable and efficient rail networks have been brought to fruition through the TEN-T project which is supposed to help modernise the EU rail network by 2020. It now appears, however, that the programme will not significantly increase the number of rail passengers or, even worse, the volume of freight transport by train; it will also do little to extend rail lines beyond the major routes. This is essentially the main reason why the railways are in stagnation and passengers and goods are travelling by road.

What further steps is the Commission planning to take in order to make environmentally-friendly rail transport more attractive by comparison with other forms of transport in the EU?