

**Question for written answer E-000617/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Fourth Railway Package

The Fourth Railway Package is currently undergoing its second reading. The aim of the package is to establish a Single European Railway Area which fosters multimodal mobility, service quality, the sustainability of the system and territorial cohesion. The Commission proposal makes no mention of these public policy objectives, however, and the references which were incorporated into the proposal by Parliament at first reading are now proving highly controversial in the negotiations with the Council.

1. Does the Commission believe that opening up the market simply for the sake of it will encourage more people to use the railways, bring about an improvement in service quality and lead to efficient, sustainable and cohesive multimodal transport planning in the EU?
2. Does the Commission, as the instigator of a number of specific proposals concerning multimodal and sustainable transport, not take the view that, if this approach is to be successful, specific reference must be made at least once to its main objectives in the operative part of the directive, in order to encourage Member States to take steps to achieve them and so that the progress in question can be monitored?
3. Will the Commission, in the ongoing negotiations, support the inclusion in the directive of explicit references to these objectives?