

**Question for written answer E-000831/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: France's position in the Galileo and EGNOS programmes

On 19 October 2015, the French Court of Auditors sent an interim ruling to the country's Prime Minister following an investigation into the EU's Galileo and EGNOS satellite navigation programmes in the period 2006 to 2013.

In its letter, the Court noted that when the Galileo programme was approved by the Council in 1999 it was expected to go into operation in 2008, but now is not scheduled to go into operation until 2021, and that EGNOS was declared operational in 2009, six years late. It added, 'in the period 1994-2020, according to current estimates more than EUR 13 billion will come from European taxpayers, including a French contribution of EUR 2.45 billion to an initial cost estimate of EUR 4.6 billion.'

While the strategic need to develop a European radio navigation system independent of the American GPS is not in doubt, it is legitimate to question the costs and the way in which the project is being managed.

In the light of the Court's audit, is the Commission planning to give France a leading role at the helm of the project once again, given that it was the first and without doubt the most committed promoter of these space programmes?