Question for written answer E-002917/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Costs related to the Turin-Lyon rail link

The company LTF (Lyon Turin Ferroviaire) was set up to develop the France-Italy cross-border section of the Turin-Lyon high-speed rail project, following conclusion of the agreement between France and Italy in January 2001.

This project will in part be funded by the European Union too. To be sure of transparency in how EU funds made available for this purpose are managed, can the Commission confirm whether expenditure of monies disbursed through the TEN-T 2007/2013 programmes has been recorded in the accounts correctly and whether entries agree with costs declared by LTF?

Furthermore, a comparison of expenditure by France and Italy from 2002 to 2014 on some of the ancillary costs required for completion of the work – such as for example furniture and fittings (France EUR 75 494; Italy EUR 121 019) or computer equipment (France EUR 171 644; Italy EUR 383 845) for the year 2011 – reveals expenditure on the Italian side to be between two and six-and-a-half times higher than on the French side (Financial Statements as at 31 December 2011 – Accounts Annex – page 33).

1. Has the Commission ascertained whether this discrepancy in expenditure by France and Italy is correct and not a case of EU funds being misused by the Italian side?

2. Can the Commission explain why there is such an enormous difference in expenditure by the two countries of EU funds?