

**Question for written answer E-005089/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Michael Cramer (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EU funding for the construction of the underground railway in Thessaloniki

The European Union is providing funding for the construction of a new underground railway in Thessaloniki (Greece) in the form of grants as well as loans through the EIB. Given Greece's extremely tight budgetary position and the need for immediate improvements in terms of urban mobility, road safety and air pollution, we would like the Commission to answer the following questions:

1. What alternatives to the lengthy and comparatively costly construction of an underground railway were discussed with the Greek authorities in order to offer the residents of Thessaloniki reliable, clean and affordable mobility?
2. Why were these alternatives not implemented?
3. How much has the EU already provided in grants, how much funding has been applied for and how much is planned?