

**Question for written answer E-005792/2016  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Dariusz Rosati (PPE)**

Subject: Support from the Connecting Europe Facility

Rail transport between Poland and Germany plays a vital role in the convergence process of the Trans-European Transport Network. The development of bilateral rail connections, particularly the Szczecin-Berlin link, should therefore be a vital part of the programme to upgrade railway infrastructure carried out using EU funds.

The need to extend this connection and complete its electrification has been highlighted by the Polish and German authorities, who signed a cooperation agreement to that effect on 20 December 2012. The companies responsible for coordinating the project – PKP PLK S.A. and DB Netz AG – have expressed an interest in seeking EU funds to cofinance the investment. According to the plans, a fast rail link between the cities should be completed by 2020, but so far neither of the companies has registered the upgrading of the Szczecin-Berlin route for funding under the Connecting Europe Facility.

1. Can the upgrading of the Szczecin-Berlin link be cofinanced under the Connecting Europe Facility even though it does not meet all the requirements of the network of European transport corridors?
2. If so, who can apply for cofunding of the project – does it have to be one of the railway companies?
3. If not, could you please indicate other possible sources of financing from the EU budget for this investment.