

**Question for written answer E-006047/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Pajares bypass

The expansion of the high-speed rail network by the Spanish Government is a case which involves a host of absurdities and irregularities and calls for a thorough investigation.

Along the León-Asturias line is the Pajares bypass, a stretch of about 50 km, more than half of which is in tunnels.

In addition to contracts being awarded, for instance, to companies allegedly involved in cases of illegal financing of the People's Party (Partido Popular) and with a cost overrun of over 150%, various EU directives, such as the Habitats Directive, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the Water Framework Directive, might have been infringed.

According to the Federación Leonesa de Entidades Locales Menores (León federation of smaller local authorities) and other local associations that submitted a complaint to the Commission in May, hydrogeological studies were not carried out and many aquifers have been destroyed during the drilling of the tunnels. This means that the latter are regularly flooded and some of the groundwater is being diverted to different drainage basins, affecting the water supply of several towns on the León side.

1. How long will it take the Commission to respond to that complaint?
2. What measures will it take in respect of such a serious case?