

**Question for written answer E-007356/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Money wasted at European ports

The European Court of Auditors has published a report entitled 'Marine transport in the EU: in troubled waters – much ineffective and unsustainable investment'.

The report gives an assessment of dozens of projects in EU Member States, including Spain, which is the main recipient of Community funding. The report complains of waste, cost overruns, delays, missing links and investment in empty or underused projects, going so far as to say that one euro in every three has been spent ineffectively.

As I have said in Parliament's Committee on Transport regarding investment in infrastructure — such as the high speed train — an environmental impact assessment is not enough; an exhaustive assessment of the socioeconomic impact is needed, one that assesses the relationship between the cost of the investment and the return, both financial and social obtained, in order to eliminate waste and prevent fraud, of both of which regrettably, examples can be found in our country.

1. In view of this report, does the Commission not believe an assessment is needed which predicts in a transparent manner the socioeconomic impact of large investments of this kind?
2. What criteria has it applied in this respect until now? Are they publicised and transparent?