

**Question for written answer E-008518/2016/rev.2
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: No European tendering procedure for the excavation of the Maddalena di Chiomonte geognostic tunnel

Commission Decision C(2008)7733 of 5 December 2008 provided for the granting of EU funding for the construction of the Maddalena di Chiomonte geognostic tunnel as part of the plans for the new Turin-Lyon high-speed rail link. The project was approved by the Italian authorities in the form of a decision of the Interministerial Economic Planning Committee (CIPE) in November 2010.

The contract for the work in question, which is worth EUR 143 million, was awarded to the consortium of companies Venaus scarl.

However, no invitation to tender was ever issued for the execution of the works.

The company behind the project, TELT, apparently confirmed the execution of the project due to a past award of a contract in 2005, for an invitation to tender issued in 2004 concerning a project costing EUR 84 million, which is much less than the cost of the work in progress.

This conflicts with the Commission decision referred to above, which expressly states that the performance of EU-funded activities must comply with EU law on tendering procedures.

In the light of the above, can the Commission say:

- why the Venaus scarl consortium is responsible for the work, given that there was never any invitation to tender;
- why the TELT was able to produce and use a past award of a contract in 2005, for an invitation to tender issued in 2004;
- what specific measures it intends to take to shed light on this matter?