

**Question for written answer E-001565/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Environmental measurements and change to the depth of the Chiomonte exploratory tunnel

By means of Decision 86/2010, the CIPE (Italian inter-ministerial economic planning committee) approved the Chiomonte exploratory tunnel project, gave permission for the tunnel to be excavated to a depth of 7.5 km and set a budget of EUR 143 million for the project, which was later increased to EUR 173 million by CIPE Decision 19/2015.

On 22 February 2017, TELT, the company carrying out the project, announced that it had completed work on the exploratory tunnel, having excavated it to a depth of 7.02 km (almost 500 metres short of the pre-arranged depth), and recorded more than 40 000 measurements on the basis of 135 environmental parameters. The CIPE allocated 5% of the aforementioned budget of EUR 173 million to the environmental measurements.

TELT's project manager informed the relevant Italian ministry of the company's failure to excavate the tunnel to the pre-arranged depth, but did not say if it planned to reduce the agreed cost.

Did the company follow standard procedures when providing the environmental measurement data and informing the ministry of its failure to excavate the tunnel to the pre-arranged depth?

Will the Commission publish and make available to the public the original environmental measurements, given that the EU co-financed the exploratory tunnel project?

How does it justify keeping to the pre-arranged budget of EUR 173 million given that the exploratory tunnel was not excavated to the pre-arranged depth?