

**Question for written answer E-002489/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: More fraud in Spanish high-speed train projects

A preliminary report by the Spanish Court of Auditors points to a series of 'serious incidents' relating to the execution of contracts for the building work on the Mediterranean Railway Network: inflated prices, payments made for work that was not carried out, certifications paid in advance, missed deadlines, discretionary awarding of contracts, and high costs disguised as project changes and/or unjustified complimentary work. These are just some of the irregularities.

The Court notes the damage that has been done to the State by the significant number of extensions made to the building projects, for elements that should have been included in the contracts and do not constitute situations that have arisen or that are urgent, as argued by ADIF, the Spanish railway network authorities.

Two courts in Barcelona are currently looking into suspected crimes of falsification, embezzlement of public funds and bribery.

The Court of Auditors previously discovered overruns of more than 200% for other building work on the Madrid-Barcelona AVE; the courts are also looking into those.

Bearing in mind that these irregularities are on the Madrid-Barcelona-French border high-speed line, co-funded by the Cohesion Fund, the RTE-T contributions and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF):

1. What actions does the Commission intend to take?
2. Will investigations be conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)?