

**Question for written answer E-002762/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Vía de la Plata train line

The Ruta de la Plata train line linking Plasencia and Astorga (Spain), which was closed in December 1984 and crosses regions of great agricultural, vine-growing, historical and cultural value in the depressed and underpopulated west of Spain, is to be re-opened. Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 states that 'The trans-European transport network shall be planned, developed and operated in a resource-efficient way, through [...] development, improvement and maintenance of existing transport infrastructure.'

European funds are to be used to subsidise the scrapping of 337 km of train lines, and the station infrastructure and tracks are to be hired so that this piece of public industrial heritage can be used for a purpose unrelated to rail transport, and that may lead to legal conflicts and compensation, among other problems. Given that it would seem that the line needs to be reopened to meet the criteria for social cohesion and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and as it would be necessary to use all the public land expropriated years ago, does the project meet the criteria of the Regulation?