

**Question for written answer E-003807/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Belgrade-Budapest rail link project and compliance with European public markets

Its dumping practices are seriously jeopardising the European steel sector, and now it seems that China has made the rail sector one of the major axes of its export trade strategy.

Chinese state-owned businesses, which are heavily subsidised, are also adopting a very aggressive strategy in relation to European markets. Let us not forget that the rail industry accounts for 400 000 direct jobs in the Union.

Among the initial results of the strategy is the rail link project between Belgrade and Budapest, which will receive 85% of its funding from China.

An article in the *Financial Times* from 20 February 2017 raised doubts as to the legality of the rail link project with regard to the rules of the European public markets established by the 2014 directives. To pave the way for fair, non-discriminatory and open competition and to avoid establishing dangerous precedents in Europe, it is essential, however, to make sure that the rules of the public markets are upheld.

What initiatives has the Commission taken to ensure that EU rules on public markets are upheld during the above project?

What action will the Commission take to avoid similar cases arising in the future?