

**Question for written answer E-005271/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: 3 000 railway suicides a year in Europe, and the Commission is doing nothing

In France, on 7 April 2017, a woman threw herself under a train in front of her four-year-old daughter¹. In Europe, every year, there are 3 000 railway suicides², representing 12% of all suicides in some countries. In 2014, in addition, there were 704 accidental deaths on the railways³. At Paris Gare du Nord station, the presence of people on the tracks is by far the primary cause of train delays.

Despite an impact of EUR 7 billion a year⁴, the words 'suicide' and 'trespass' do not appear in the 2018 draft work plan of the European Union Agency for Railways or the 2017 research programme (Shift2Rail)⁵.

The Commission is investing EUR 450 million in rail research (2014-2020), including EUR 3.5 million in 2017 to develop a 'travel companion' application⁶.

1. Why does the Commission agree to finance commercial applications when no research is being funded in order to prevent tragedies on the railways?
2. Why is the EU deploying 28 ships, four aeroplanes and four helicopters to prevent 4 000 non-Europeans from dying in the Mediterranean, but is doing nothing to help 4 000 European victims on European railway tracks⁷?

¹ <http://www.leparisien.fr/verneuil-sur-seine-78480/verneuil-sur-seine-elle-se-jette-sous-le-train-sous-les-yeux-de-son-enfant-07-04-2017-6835566.php>

² p.33 <http://www.era.europa.eu/Document-Register/Documents/Railway%20Safety%20Performance%202016%20final%20E.pdf>. That figure does not include level-crossing accidents (282 fatalities).

³ <http://www.era.europa.eu/Document-Register/Documents/DNV%20COR%20study%20-%20Task%202%20report.pdf>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/jtis/h2020-wp17-shift2rail_en.pdf

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/rail/shift2rail_en

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/jtis/h2020-wp17-shift2rail_en.pdf, p.18

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/securing-eu-borders/fact-sheets/docs/20161006/eu_operations_in_the_mediterranean_sea_en.pdf