

**Question for written answer E-007215/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Construction of an underground tunnel for the last stretch of the high-speed railway line (AVE) to Murcia

Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) considers a favourable environmental impact assessment to be mandatory for certain projects, including railway infrastructure projects.

For the project to build an underground tunnel for the last stretch of the AVE railway line to Murcia, the environmental impact statement in question was issued and approved in 2009 in accordance with this Directive.

As things stand, this project, on which the work has already begun, differs substantially - 80% - from the original; even so, it is being endorsed by an environmental impact assessment that dates from 2009.

Does the Commission consider that the current project, which is significantly different from the initial one, requires a new environmental impact assessment?

If not, how can the Commission ensure, in the absence of an environmental impact assessment for the new project, that this project will not affect human beings and the fauna, flora, soil, air, climate, landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, as defined by the EIA Directive?