

**Question for written answer E-000543/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: 'Sea motorway' between Gijón and St. Nazaire

In 2014, upon expiry of subsidies from Spain, France and the Marco Polo programme, the company GLD Atlantique ceased operating the Gijón-Saint Nazaire 'sea motorway' ferry line, claiming that it was not economically viable, although, according to the Port Authority of Gijón, it had an occupancy rate of 70%.

In September 2014, this Member put two questions to the Commission, on the assessment (E-007352/14) and continued operation (E-007353/14) of this important sea route, in view of the ambitious targets set out in the white paper on European transport policy, one of which was to establish efficient transport networks as arteries of the single market.

Consideration is currently being given to requesting the reopening this line under the aegis of the Connecting Europe Facility. The Innovation and Networks Executive Agency believes it to be an efficient, safe and high-quality service, with logistical solutions that will help both ports reposition themselves as major transport nodes in the Atlantic Arc and promote multimodal transport throughout the Atlantic Corridor.

1. Has the Commission received any correspondence from the Spanish Government on this matter?
2. How can the Commission help ensure that this route is reopened, taking into account previous experience?