

**Question for written answer E-005274/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: From AVE to the 'Hyperloop': another bottomless pit

In Spain, successive governments have a habit of competing with each other to take credit for infrastructure which subsequently requires ruinous investment, paid for by taxpayers over decades. This is true of the Alta Velocidad Española (AVE - high-speed train), for which the costs have overrun and the lack of passengers were criticised by the European Court of Auditors not long ago.

On several occasions, I have pointed out the need to complement environmental impact assessments with independent and transparent socioeconomic impact assessments, to prevent public money being squandered or fraudulently transferred to the private sector.

Commissioner Crețu replied to one of my parliamentary questions as follows: The Commission has updated the cost-benefit analysis methodology to help Member States ensure that investments are based on a reliable analysis of the socioeconomic benefits hoped for, the financial aspects and the projects' potential risks. This methodology emphasises appropriate analysis of the options and the provision of reasons for the investment, including in relation to existing infrastructure.

The current government is competing with the previous government and wants to take the credit for the arrival of the 'Hyperloop' in Spain. It is therefore considering funding a certain project.

Does the Commission believe that this technology is sufficiently mature for Member States to invest in?