

**Question for written answer E-005276/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Taking responsibility for wastage and fraud involving European funds

On 26 June 2018 the European Court of Auditors published a report entitled 'A European high speed rail network: not a reality but an ineffective patchwork'¹. Some of the conclusions reached by this detailed analysis are the same as the allegations I have been making since I arrived at the European Parliament in 2014.

The report says that Spain obtained almost half of all EU funding for high-speed trains, between 2000 and 2017, and was thus the EU leader in terms of percentage of co-funding.

The report condemns cost overruns and lack of passengers. It says the cost-benefit analyses were not appropriately used, that 'the decision to build high-speed lines is often based on political considerations' and that most studies have very low cost-benefit ratios and some were not viable from a socioeconomic perspective.

Moreover, the Spanish public procurement model is opaque and inefficient. Its deficiencies may cost at least EUR 20 000 million per year, according to a study by Transparency International and the Spanish Public Procurement Observatory.

What measures is the Commission taking in this regard? What about OLAF?

Who is taking responsibility for this issue?

¹ <http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/high-speed-rail-19-2018/en/>