

Question for written answer E-005277/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Prioritising social, economic and territorial cohesion over mega-infrastructure projects

On 14 November 2017, Parliament approved a report ¹on cohesion policy which explained how demographic changes produce significant pressures on the Governments of Member States, at regional and local levels, regarding the provision of public services, in particular social services and social welfare, the creation and management of infrastructures and the conservation of ecosystems through sustainable land use planning.

Regarding infrastructure, an inconsistent application of these policies is observed in Spain where ruinous investment in inefficient ²high-speed trains is prioritised to the detriment of suburban and regional train networks which are almost abandoned, and which facilitate cohesion, supporting and connecting rural areas with medium-sized towns and cities.

These latest networks do not seem to be taken into account in the “Core set of performance indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund” in the proposal the Commission set out in May 2018³which also prioritises the TEN-T.

How does the Commission evaluate these contradictions regarding the cohesion policy, both in its proposal and Spain’s infrastructure policy?

¹ Report on the deployment of cohesion policy instruments by regions to address demographic change (A8-0329/2017).

² Special report by the European Court of Auditors entitled “A European high-speed rail network: Not a reality but an ineffective patchwork”.

³ Annex to the “Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund” 29 May 2018.