

**Question for written answer P-003532/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
André Elissen (ENF)

Subject: Squandering of money on high-speed railway lines

According to the European Court of Auditors, high-speed rail projects in the European Union are often nothing short of a disaster. The construction of the lines costs European taxpayers pots of money, and is virtually always hugely delayed, and passengers hardly use the tracks that have been built, if at all.

The Commission has the out-of-touch ambition to see the European Union create a high-speed railway network of no less than 30 000 km by 2030, i.e. about twelve years from now.

1. Who is responsible for the constant failures of the Commission in relation to the construction of high-speed railway lines, and what measures have been taken to prevent further failures, as far as possible?
2. Since 2000, more than EUR 23.7 billion of European tax payers' money has been spent on co-financing. Does the Commission still maintain that this investment has been effective?
3. Why, despite all the warnings from the European Court of Auditors, the innumerable delays and the huge waste of taxpayers' money, is the Commission persisting with its crazy target of 30 000 km of high-speed railway lines in the Union?