

**Question for written answer E-001665/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Dominique Baudis (PPE)**

Subject: Central Pyrenees crossing - Priority Project 16

The development of transport links between France and Spain will boost growth in these countries' border regions. This is one of Europe's key transport priorities for the period to 2020. One project in particular, Priority Project 16 (PP16), aims to create a crossing through the central Pyrenees.

The project entails building a railway tunnel between the Aragon and Midi-Pyrénées regions in order to develop a road-rail axis. It will complement existing road and rail links (along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts) and help to distribute freight traffic more evenly.

The work of improving existing links (Priority Project 3) is already well underway. PP16, on the other hand, has barely entered the study phase. Work is not expected to begin before 2025.

What progress has been made on PP16 and what are the next significant steps? Has a European coordinator been appointed? Has a specific timetable been established?