

**Question for written answer E-010515/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
James Elles (ECR)

Subject: UK High Speed 2 (HS2) rail link - aviation policy

With reference to the proposed HS2 project and its coordination with aviation policy, could the Commission clarify the following:

1. Has the UK Government provided details to DG Transport regarding its proposals to link its proposed high-speed rail network to Heathrow airport in conjunction with the TEN programme?
2. Does the Commission believe that it is an adequate approach for the UK Government to consider aviation and rail policy separately (with consultation not yet started on the former, while decisions have already been made on the latter)?
3. With regard to the proposed HS2 high-speed rail link to Heathrow, does the Commission wish to review the UK Government's decision to prioritise a three-minute saving on journey time over connectivity with the world's busiest international airport, thereby preventing cross-border rail services from reaching Heathrow (on account of the layout of the route)?