

**Question for written answer E-010517/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
James Elles (ECR)

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

With reference to the proposed UK High Speed 2 rail project, could the Commission please clarify whether the UK Government is in compliance with international standards regarding noise, in respect of the following points:

1. Can the Commission review the UK Government's compliance with the provisions of the Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) in connection with its HS2 proposals? In particular, can the Commission review whether the decision not to provide detailed noise contour maps is consistent with the requirements of this directive?
2. HS2 Limited has proposed 85 dB LpA as a threshold level of noise when determining the impact of noise on communities affected by HS2. Does the Commission consider this to be an appropriate threshold to gauge the impact of noise in light of the Environmental Noise Directive?
3. Does the Commission believe that, in assessing the environmental impact of transport projects, relevant public bodies should comply with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) document entitled 'Night Noise Guidelines for Europe'?