

**Question for written answer E-010518/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
James Elles (ECR)

Subject: UK High Speed 2 (HS2) rail - public consultation

In many locations where the route of HS2 is planned to run there have been changes to the design of the route consulted on, made only after the public consultation had closed. This has meant that the environmental impact of the route has been increased as the result of an exercise to reduce the costs of construction, yet there has been no opportunity for consultees to comment on such changes.

Does the Commission believe this approach to be consistent with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?