

**Question for written answer E-010522/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
James Elles (ECR)

Subject: UK High Speed 2 Rail (HS2) - Comparisons within the European Union

In recent years, many railway lines have been constructed in the EU to favour the development of high-speed rail travel. Will the Commission set out what the approach has been in Germany, France, Italy and Spain, in order to understand how the schemes compare across these countries. In particular, it would be interesting to know:

1. whether a special scheme has been set up to compensate communities impacted by high-speed rail projects, or if compensation is only available through existing legal processes?
2. if a special scheme has been set up, whether it compensates everyone within a certain proximity of the route?
3. when the scheme starts functioning? Before, during or after construction?
4. who administers the scheme?
5. whether the scheme effectively minimises the damage to communities?