

**Question for written answer E-002888/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Karim Zéribi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Prospects for the Lyon-Turin railway tunnel

On 19 November 2013, Members of the European Parliament adopted the agreement concluded between the Member States relating to the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and the guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T).

Accordingly, of the EUR 29.3 billion set aside in the CEF budget, EUR 23.2 billion will be allocated to the transport sector from 2014 to 2020 with the aim of improving cross-border connections, removing bottlenecks and completing the networks. This has to be put into perspective with the EUR 300 billion that your services deem necessary for the completion of the TEN-T networks in Europe by 2050.

Faced with such meagre investment, it is therefore important to make judicious and fair choices that enable optimal use to be made of public funds. Such pragmatism will result in us giving priority to financing strategic infrastructures, facilities and cross-border sections as opposed to projects of a larger scale, such as the Lyon-Turin project, that will only consume European funds without significantly benefiting the mobility of citizens and goods. It would be more beneficial to modernise the existing infrastructure, which would enable the transport needs of goods and our citizens to be catered for effectively and would have the advantage of being ten times less expensive than the current project.

In fact, according to the most recent calculations, this enormous project alone would require EUR 8.5 billion for the construction of the tunnel and EUR 7 billion for development on the French side. Based on a European co-financing rate of 20%, and without factoring in the portion for development on the Italian side, this represents a budget allocation of EUR 3.1 billion, being 13% of the total CEF budget allocation.

In this context, could the Commission indicate what its position is on the allocation of funds between the projects for the period 2014-2010 and, in particular, on the prospects that have been opened up for this project?