

**Question for written answer E-003450/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Aldo Patriciello (PPE)

Subject: State aid for rolling stock and freight train operators - second response

Further to my Written Questions E-004934/2013 of 6 May 2013 and E-011030/2013 of 27 September 2013, I should like to make some additional points, with a view to persuading the Commission to review its position.

The Commission has launched a public consultation on a funding scheme supporting sustainable and efficient freight transport services, with a view to improving the performance and sustainability of freight transport in the EU.

Article 1(83) of Italian Act 147 of 27 December 2013 (the 2014 stability law), which was fleshed out and amended during its passage through parliament, states that EUR 100 million is to be allocated annually for the purchase of road vehicles for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016, and EUR 200 million is to be allocated in 2014 for the purchase of rolling stock. In both cases, the funding may be used only for local public transport services.

Article 1(556) stipulates that companies holding local public transport contracts that do not comply with the relevant EU rules and that run until after 3 December 2019 may not take part in any current or future invitations to tender for service contracts. This does not apply to companies that have been awarded a service contract following a tender procedure.

In the light of the above, would the Commission not agree that, given the lack of uniform rules, it is necessary and appropriate to codify the rules governing aid for freight rolling stock in the Railway Guidelines?