

**Question for written answer E-002863/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Michael Cramer (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Call for tenders for the provision of local passenger rail services in border areas

Competitive tendering procedures for transport services in border areas often do not include cross-border services, one example being the current calls for tender in Germany for networks on the Polish border. The competitive tendering procedure for the 'East Saxony I' network, which began in December 2014, does not now include cross-border services. The original call for tenders included 'Transport services to Wrocław, Poland', but this section was withdrawn in the course of the procedure.

The call for tenders for the 'East Saxony II' network, which is due to become operational in late 2019, will shortly be issued and should be awarded in late 2019. The contract will run to 2031. As things stand, cross-border services to Poland will not be included.

1. What steps is the Commission taking or does it plan to take to improve the provision of cross-border local and regional transport services, which constitute a public service obligation, in particular by including such services in competitive tendering procedures (See Article 1 of Regulation 2016/2338)?