

Question for written answer E-002435/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Valter Flego (Renew)

Subject: Bolstering infrastructure projects in Southeast Europe

One of the problems facing Southeast European countries is outdated railway infrastructure, which results in low competitiveness, poor quality of service and a tendency for people to generally favour road transport, which results in increased costs and environmental damage. The share of biofuels in transport, as well as the number of charging points for electric vehicles, is among the lowest in the EU. Due to the greater tendency to use road transport, Southeast European countries also record the highest number of road fatalities. The average number of road deaths per million inhabitants is 49 for the EU as a whole, while in Romania, this number is 98, in Bulgaria 96, and in Croatia 80, which is almost double the average. Cohesion funds make a significant contribution to modernising infrastructure, decarbonising transport, improving road safety and reducing road deaths in Southeast Europe.

In this connection:

Given the Commission's announcement that it will cut cohesion funds, how will it ensure the steady development of all Member States and the completion of the TEN-T network? Cohesion funds make up a significant share of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), which is also the main funding mechanism for large infrastructure projects?