

**Question for written answer E-002553/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Susanna Ceccardi (ID)**

Subject: Erasmus bus tragedy, families awaiting the truth

In the morning of 20 March 2016, along the motorway between Valencia and Barcelona, a coach carrying Erasmus students of various nationalities veered off the road, crashing, and causing the deaths of 13 girls, 7 of whom were Italian.

The driver, who had initially confessed to having fallen asleep at the wheel, later retracted his statement and blamed the conditions of the road and the vehicle. He is one of the main suspects but, years later, nobody has yet been held to account.

The Court of Tarragona has closed the case twice, but it was reopened in June in the light of the faults in the handling of the investigation found by the judge himself – Mario Sanz Fernandez-Vega, national prosecutor for road safety.

The families of the deceased girls have, for a long time, been calling for light to be shed on the matter and for somebody to be held to account.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

- 1) What is its opinion on the above-mentioned matter, especially with regard to the fact that, after so many years, nobody has been held accountable?
- 2) In its view, should it not ask the Spanish Government to take an interest in the case?