

Question for written answer E-002756/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Major project for an overground light railway link between Cosenza-Rende and the University of Calabria: delays and possible rescheduling of resources

The major project for an overground light railway link between Cosenza-Rende and the University of Calabria, which was initially approved by virtue of Decision C (2012) 6737 and subsequently split over two planning periods, 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, provides for a total cost of EUR 156.8 million and certified expenditure currently amounting to EUR 2.8 million.

Since the outset, the project has suffered a number of delays: firstly, in the initial phase of the authorisation procedure for the commissioning of the rolling stock and the design of the project; secondly, in the start-up phase of the work to resolve a number of issues regarding the route the line will take.

To date, serious doubts remain as to how useful the project actually is, given the huge sum that will reportedly be invested for a project which is out of all proportion to possible use.

Furthermore, the fact that the executive project has not yet been approved, the question of the route and the timeframes for construction represent a future financial risk for the programme and could make necessary a rescheduling of resources, given that it was estimated that EUR 10 million in certified expenditure would be attained by 31.12.2018.

In the light of the above, can the Commission say:

- 1) What is the total sum of the payments made under the 2014/2020 programming period?
- 2) Are there to date any potential risks of a future loss of funding and, consequently, does it consider it preferable to reschedule resources towards other actions / projects, in accordance with the provisions of Article 30 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 on the amendment of programmes?