

**Question for written answer E-003035/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Izaskun Bilbao Barandica** (Renew)

Subject: Investigation into rail accidents at level crossings

On 10 September 2019, another fatal accident took place at a level crossing on the Spanish railway network. Statistics show that 30% of all deaths caused by rail accidents occur in this way. Given the frequency and severity of these incidents and the fact that much of Spain's railway infrastructure is clearly in need of improvement, I put to Parliament's plenary session a proposal that all of these accidents be deemed 'serious' so that they can be investigated by an independent authority. Furthermore, I stressed the need to support the use of technologies, including the existing system of automated visual inspections, in order to eliminate these risks once and for all, because if we do not, it will no longer be possible to regard these incidents simply as accidents.

1. How many accidents of this type that have occurred in Spain in the last five years have been investigated by the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)?
2. Have the Spanish authorities shown a willingness to cooperate?
3. Given the costs incurred in modifying railway infrastructure, does the Commission provide any form of support for the development and implementation of systems such as the automated visual inspections referred to above?