Question for written answer E-003088/2019 to the Commission Rule 138 Eva Kaili (S&D)

Subject: Condition of bridges in Europe a cause for alarm

Given the widely acknowledged consequences of climate change, Europe as a whole and Greece in particular need to take immediate action to address the problem of inadequate bridge maintenance and inspection leading to the risk of tragedies such as the collapse of the Morandi Bridge in Italy. A recent study¹ in Greece reveals that most bridges there are in urgent need of maintenance and upgrading and also contains data for other countries in Europe.

Fundamental changes in transport flows and volumes have not been properly reflected in building standards and rules or legislative framework provisions governing infrastructures. This is a problem directly concerning the safety of passenger transport in Europe and of transport in general.

Following the collapse of the Morandi Bridge in Italy, the EU now being called upon to take action to prevent any similar tragedies. In view of this, what measures does the Commission plan to take, given that the continuously worsening situation brooks no delay?

What is the Commission's position regarding the creation of, or provision for, a separate fund for the inspection, maintenance, upgrading and reconstruction of all EU bridges?

¹ https://mailchi.mp/dianeosis/kg81xvz8or?e=0533544055