

**Question for written answer E-003585/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: High speed train connection between Amsterdam and Berlin via the Dutch province of Gelderland

The Netherlands is key in two important European corridors: the North Sea - Baltic and the Rhine - Alpine corridor. An important part of the North Sea - Baltic corridor is the completion of a high speed rail link between Amsterdam and Berlin. However, rail passengers still face a 6.5 hour journey between Amsterdam and Berlin via Amersfoort, Enschede and the Bad Bentheim border. If we want to meet our climate goals soon, attractive, additional and sustainable transport alternatives are needed.

Therefore, the Dutch and German Ministries of Transport are now exploring the possibility of improving the Amsterdam-Berlin connection via Arnhem and the Emmerich border. This investment would not only improve the Amsterdam - Berlin connection but also the Amsterdam - Frankfurt connection. This also means that one single investment would boost two European corridors. The train connection via Arnhem and Emmerich would also cut travel time by 45 minutes, a big improvement for rail passengers.

1. What priority does the Commission assign to the train connection between Amsterdam - Berlin and Amsterdam - Frankfurt?
2. Does the Commission acknowledge that the route via Arnhem is the best alternative, and is the Commission willing to promote this route by prioritising infrastructure investment on the German side?
3. Is this infrastructure eligible for TEN-T and CEF funding, particularly the faster route via Arnhem?