

**Question for written answer E-003885/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: D1 motorway section - termination of contract

The Italian-Slovak consortium of SALINI IMPREGILO and DÚHA became the contractor for the Lietavská Lúčka - Višňové - Dubná Skala section of the D1 motorway in Slovakia, including the complicated section of the Višňové tunnel, on the basis of a public tendering procedure.

The contractor started work on the project after signing the contract with the National Motorway Company in June 2014 and, according to the terms of the contract, the works were due to be completed by the end of this year. However, due to long delays resulting from the lack of capacity provided by the contractor and also due to the contractor's repeated difficulties in paying what it owes to subcontractors, the National Motorway Company addressed its concerns to the Slovak Ministry of Transport and Construction and the Commission, since the project was funded by the EU. As the contractor would not have been able to complete the project by the contractual deadline and had not respected the contractual provisions and construction supervision obligations for a long time, they decided to terminate the contract. According to information provided by the Slovak Ministry of Transport and Construction, the termination agreement was agreed in principle by the Commission in Brussels on 20 February 2019.

Can the Commission confirm that it has agreed in principle to this agreement?

Since the Commission has consented in principle to the agreement to terminate the contract of the SALINI IMPREGILO-DÚHA consortium, could it please specify the reasons that led it to take this decision?