

**Question for written answer E-004505/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Roman Haider (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)

Subject: European Court of Auditors Special Report No 19/2018 on a European high-speed rail network

The very title of the report – ‘A European high-speed rail network: not a reality but an ineffective patchwork’ – clearly pinpoints the huge problems surrounding rail infrastructure policy. For example, criticism is levelled inter alia at the lack of realistic long-term planning and of cost-benefit analyses. Particularly as regards safeguarding the environment and local communities, and the importance of high-performance infrastructure for the economy as a whole, this state of affairs can only be described as abysmal.

1. What tangible measures has the Commission taken to date in order to take account of the conclusions of the above-mentioned report?
2. What tangible measures has the Commission taken overall, since the report was published, in order to speed up the development of a high-performance high-speed rail network?
3. Has the Commission been working on a realistic long-term plan for European rail infrastructure, or is it still doing so, as is called for in the report?