

**Question for written answer E-003690/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European Court of Auditors report on the Turin-Lyon high-speed rail link

The European Court of Auditors recently published a report assessing certain megaprojects co-financed by the Commission.

Among the eight infrastructure megaprojects costing more than EUR 1 billion to fund is also the second Lyon-Turin high-speed link, commonly known in Italy as the TAV.

The Court's report reveals a number of critical issues.

Despite the 15-year delay, the project delivery deadlines will not be met, as the idea that the line will be operational by 2030 is considered unrealistic.

Furthermore, compared to initial estimates, the cost of the project has increased by 85%, rising from EUR 5.2 billion to EUR 9.6 billion, including inflation.

Lastly, the court even regards the traffic forecasts as being 'overly optimistic', which means there is 'a high risk of overestimating the environmental benefits' of the TAV: pollutant emissions will not be offset until 25 years after the infrastructure enters into service (where predicted traffic levels are reached); otherwise it could take more than 50 years.

In the light of this new information, can the Commission say whether:

1. it continues to regard this project as vital and as a priority for EU transport policy;
2. it intends to call it into question;
3. it will consider the option of reviewing the funds earmarked for the TAV and transfer them to other priorities, in view also of the coronavirus emergency?