

**Question for written answer E-003713/2020**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Laura Ferrara (NI)**

Subject: 'Diagonale del Mediterraneo per il Sud' rail network

The rail transport system in the south of Italy is an ongoing emergency

and rail policy in the region a catalogue of failures stretching back 50 years. A widening gap separates the south from the rest of the country and from the EU's objectives of optimising the development of a trans-European transport network that can guarantee accessibility and connectivity for all EU regions, including remote and outermost regions (Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013).

According to recent press reports <sup>1</sup>, the Italian Government is preparing a major revamp of the rail network in the south of Italy in the form of the 'Diagonale del Mediterraneo per il Sud'.

This will be a new long-distance rail link running from Brindisi to Taranto and then on into Basilicata. It will end on the Tyrrhenian coast where it will connect with the Napoli-Salerno high-speed line.

A second branch will cross northern Calabria and run down the Ionian coast before cutting across the region along the Sibari-Paola axis.

Another line will run along the whole of the Ionian coastline from Sibari to Reggio Calabria.

In light of the above, can the Commission indicate:

1. Whether it considers this project to tally with the objectives of the trans-European transport network;
2. Whether it will adapt and update the plans contained in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No1315/2013 to take this project into account;
3. Whether it will support this project and request that it be realised with financing from the nascent European Recovery Fund?

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://huffp.st/86FLDCf>