

**Question for written answer E-005134/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**José Gusmão** (GUE/NGL), **Marisa Matias** (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Tolls

At the end of the 1990s, the first motorways that were free of charge for users appeared in Portugal. Their management was contracted out to private parties via public-private partnerships which have turned out to be damaging to the public purse.

The first to be built, the current A23, linked Abrantes and Guarda. Many others followed, on the mainland and in the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira.

Despite the initial plans for these roads to be costless for users, governments started to charge for their use some time ago. These charges have been bitterly opposed by the part of the population that has no safe alternative to driving. What is more, they penalise those who live inland in particular.

Back in 2012, the Commission threatened to take Portugal to court over this charge. However, years have gone by, the tolls are still in place and people who use these motorways continue to have their rights infringed, as they are obliged to pay tolls.

In the light of the above, what action could the Commission take to urge Portugal to ensure that tolls are not charged on these roads?