

**Question for written answer E-003185/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Possible bottlenecks on the Mediterranean Corridor railway line crossing Tarragona's shore

Freight traffic crossing Tarragona on the Mediterranean Corridor railway line must go along the city's shore owing to the Spanish Government's ad hoc solution of adding a third rail to the tracks in order to turn the Iberian gauge into a standard gauge. This creates a serious bottleneck.

The current plan means that freight traffic and passenger traffic has to take the same route, when the former could use a track bypassing Tarragona, leaving the shoreline for passenger rail traffic, given that it is a prime route for tourists.

The current plan will have a negative impact on people's health and safety. It will also affect the environment and the historical and residential heritage of Tarragona, such as its UNESCO-protected Roman amphitheatre.

1. Has the Commission conducted an analysis of the impact of the projected location of the Mediterranean Corridor freight railway line on the historical heritage of Tarragona ?
2. Does it agree that the current plan is not consistent with the EU legal framework, namely the TEN-T Guidelines Regulation's Articles 2, 5, 9, 13, 30, 34 and 35?
3. What action is the Commission planning to take to prevent bottlenecks in this area?