

**Question for written answer E-004613/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tudor Ciuhodaru (S&D)

Subject: EU-funded rail travel vouchers for use on the Odessa-Chisinău-Iași line with a view to overcoming travel restrictions affecting the next generation

The IDEP Moldova project development institute, in partnership with the Moldovan railway authority and the APIT national tourism association, has set up a working group for the launching of the Iași-Chisinau rail service on 1 November 2021, to be coordinated with the Chisinău-Odessa rail timetable in a bid to encourage city breaks on the Iași-Chisinău-Odessa line. The municipalities of Odessa and Iași have hosted comprehensive talks with all public and private stakeholders with the aim of developing a regular service along this line and of harnessing its potential, despite the lack of tourists owing to COVID restrictions. Under these circumstances, regional tourism may be offered as a solution for those meeting the requisite epidemiological conditions.

Can the Commission provide support for the joint working group set up by the IDEP, APIT and Moldovan rail authority in a bid to save jobs through regional tourism, bearing in mind that young people are being greatly affected by the COVID restrictions and the resulting lack of contact, causing psychological problems for the next generation?

Is the Commission considering the IDEP request for subsidised vouchers to be made available to young people wishing to travel on the Odessa-Chișinău-Iași line, thereby supporting the rail services of the three countries concerned?