

**Question for written answer E-000747/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Market entry barriers encountered by Renfe and lack of competition on the French rail market

The French Transport Regulatory Authority (ART) recently published a report highlighting barriers to market entry that hinder the process of rail liberalisation in France and revealing a lack of openness to international competitors, including the Spanish operator Renfe, discouraging participation in the French market.

Whereas Spain has made it easier for SNCF to enter the Spanish market, Renfe regularly encounters unfair obstacles when it comes to obtaining the necessary type approvals and to operating on the French market on a reciprocal basis.

By hindering both the entry into the market of competitors such as Renfe and the liberalisation of the sector in the country, the French authorities are taking unfair advantage of the situation. This obstructionist attitude runs counter to the applicable European rules and the principle of equal treatment, and affects the proper functioning of the internal market and consumer rights.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission carry out an investigation into the barriers to competition on the French market, which are impeding Renfe's entry and which constitute a breach of European legislation on the liberalisation of the railway sector?
2. What measures will the Commission take to ensure a level playing field and non-discrimination as regards access and competition in the rail sector and to guarantee that European legislation is applied properly in all Member States?