

**Question for written answer E-000422/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: Application by the Spanish Government for European funds to improve train services in Asturias and Cantabria

In 2020, the Spanish Government undertook to renew the fleet of 31 trains intended for the Autonomous Communities of Cantabria and Asturias, as the rail network in both regions had been experiencing problems caused by obsolete trains for more than twenty years.

However, we recently learned that while the train construction project was being prepared, the manufacturer discovered that there was an error in the height and width specifications of the vehicles and that the existing tracks would not be able to carry the trains ordered by the Government. The height of the trains is greater than that of the tunnels in the network in these regions.

As a result, the trains, which were due to be ready next year, will only enter into operation in three years, a delay affecting a rail network that is already inadequate and requiring investment.

In light of these serious developments and bearing in mind that the European Investment Bank (EIB) granted a loan of EUR 150 million to Renfe for this project, I would like to ask the following question:

Has the Spanish Government requested European funds for the project to improve rail services in Asturias and Cantabria, specifically funds for the manufacture of new trains in these and other regions?

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