

**Question for written answer E-002930/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Damage caused by the pointless high-speed railway project between Verona and Padua

The Verona-Padua railway line project involves significant interventions, including the purchase of private homes, demolition and the laying of concrete. It will have a considerable environmental impact for a minimum of ten years due to construction sites that will adversely affect the well-being and health of citizens for an extended period. This new railway line will only save a marginal amount of time between Verona and Padua stations, primarily due to there being fewer stops. This all comes at the expense of European citizens. Notably, the section of the new line between Verona and Bivio Vicenza is being financed using Next Generation EU funds. However, the contract was awarded directly, which is in violation of EU regulations. Funds from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), which is part of the Next Generation EU programme, are only meant for projects with an approved final plan and a completion date of 2026 at the latest. Unfortunately, the section concerned will not be completed by that deadline. The European Court of Auditors has strongly criticised many sections of the EU's high-speed system for having inadequate justification and for being excessively expensive.

Does the Commission believe that it should take action to halt this futile project and hold Italy accountable for the misuse of NRRP funds?

Supporter¹

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¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)