Question for written answer E-003004/2023 to the Commission Rule 138 Valter Flego (Renew)

Subject: European transport corridors and Croatia

HŽ Infrastruktura has cancelled a contract for the design of a double-track railway line through Rijeka due to delays. The Rijeka-Zagreb section is one of the Croatian Government's key infrastructure projects. It forms part of the Mediterranean Corridor, which will connect Croatia with Hungary. The location of the Port of Rijeka has a wider European significance, because with the revision of the new TEN-T Regulation, it will be the gateway to two European corridors – one that will connect the northern Adriatic with ports in the Baltic, and the other important one that will connect Rijeka with the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.

However, the development of railway infrastructure is falling behind the development of the port. The construction of the lowland railway line between Rijeka and Zagreb is still pending, as is the construction of a double-track railway line through Rijeka. A double-track railway line through Rijeka is necessary to strategically strengthen the port of Rijeka, to ensure the integration of the railway into the transport system in Rijeka and to include it in urban and suburban passenger transport. The financing of this section is planned to come from the Connecting Europe Facility (EUR 315 million).

- 1. Is the Commission aware of the delay in the construction of the double-track railway line through Rijeka? What is the Commission's view, what is the deadline for construction and what are the possible consequences for Croatia in the event of a delay?
- 2. Will the Commission take concrete measures to ensure that infrastructure projects for European transport corridors are completed by 2030?

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