

**Question for written answer E-003235/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Benoît Lutgen (PPE)

Subject: Railway policy, particularly in rural areas

On 15 December 2020, Parliament endorsed the interinstitutional agreement establishing the 2021 European Year of Rail. The Commission was invited to examine the possibility of creating a rail connectivity index to assess the coherence, quality and diversity of the EU rail network, as well as its accessibility in terms of the options available for intermodal transport.

In December 2022, Parliament adopted a resolution¹ on the Commission's action plan to develop long-distance and cross-border passenger rail. Parliament supports the action plan, but calls, among other things, for a speeding up of the construction of new rail lines and for investment in the development of cross-border, long-distance high-speed rail links to be prioritised.

In view of the above:

1. Has the Commission explored the possibility of creating this index, and if so, did it create it, and if not, why not?
2. Is the Commission liaising with Member States to coordinate the construction of new railway lines?
3. Does it give particular priority to especially poorly served rural areas?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0437_EN.html