

**Question for written answer P-006735/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lucy Anderson (S&D)

Subject: Thefts of metal items

Thefts of metal, especially copper, for resale on the black market are taking on increasingly worrying proportions in numerous Member States and are hitting the railway sector, among others, extremely hard.

In many cases, metal theft is a form of organised cross-border crime, and as such represents a threat to the internal security and economies of the Member States. Different items are being stolen due to the monetary value of their constituent materials, and in most cases thieves seek to exchange their stolen metal for money. However, the impact of metal theft goes far beyond the actual value of the stolen material and many services of general interest, such as public transport, railways, energy networks and telecommunications, are disrupted.

In some Member States, metal thieves are punished only on the basis of the value of the stolen material. Nevertheless, the real impact of metal theft on businesses, their customers and society as a whole needs to be taken into account.

1. Is the Commission in possession of additional information on the scale of the problem and its impact on railway services and infrastructures?
2. Does the Commission believe that, by working together with the Member States, measures such as establishing common definitions and sanctions for crimes impacting on services of general interest should be considered?