

**Question for written answer E-002222/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Borja Giménez Larraz (PPE)

Subject: Railway chaos in Madrid and the need to improve rail safety

On 19 October, an employee of Adif (a Spanish state-owned railway infrastructure manager) had to make the decision to derail a train in the Chamartín-Atocha tunnel (in Madrid) to prevent major human and material damage after it had uncoupled from the main train and was going downhill out of control. This incident led to unprecedented chaos, long delays and cancellations throughout the rail network, while communication with passengers was inadequate.

In recent years, problems have been piling up in the rail sector: a lack of investment in the network, never-ending construction works, outdated trains and overloaded junctions. At the same time, the Spanish Government has called this ‘the greatest moment for railways in our country’, which underscores the need to take action at European level.

In light of the above:

1. Has the Commission requested information from the Spanish Government on the series of safety incidents on the rail network?
2. What mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that national governments take stronger measures on rail safety to prevent a tragedy?
3. Is the Commission planning to take action against Member States that do not comply with EU recommendations?

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