

Question for written answer E-003640/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: European funds with no growth performance: the cost of national micro-political planning

Despite significant economic convergence in recent decades, serious infrastructure gaps persist between Eastern and Western Europe. For example, in 2023, no Member State along the Greece-Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Slovakia-Poland corridor had a specially constructed railway line with a speed of at least 250 km/h, when large networks were already operating in Western Europe.

Completing cross-border infrastructure can bring much greater economic benefits when national investments are planned in a coordinated rather than a piecemeal manner. The same applies to investments in energy, digital infrastructure, industry and human capital.

This shortfall limits not only the growth potential of the countries concerned but also the effective functioning of the single market, creating barriers to cross-border transport, investment and regional development as a whole. Development policy in particular requires long-term planning and continuity rather than choices dictated by temporary micro-political considerations and short-sighted government planning.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it have comparative assessments of the projects and reforms that could offer the greatest additional growth and convergence from Greece to Poland?
2. Does it intend to create stronger financial incentives for the coordination of national investment plans, in particular for cross-border infrastructure with high added value?
3. When a Member State directs significant European funds towards investments with lower growth performance despite the existence of more effective options, does it intend to systematically publicise these discrepancies and the estimated opportunity cost for citizens?

Submitted: 11.9.2026