

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001937/24
to the Commission
Borja Giménez Larraz (PPE), Elena Nevado del Campo (PPE)
(3 October 2024)**

Subject: Madrid-Lisbon high-speed rail link

In August 2024, the Spanish Ministry of Transport pledged to map out the route that the Madrid-Badajoz-Lisbon high-speed rail link would take through the province of Toledo. However, the Spanish Government is still dragging its feet over this decision, jeopardising the 2030 completion deadline set by the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) for this railway.

And Spain is not the only country affected. Portugal will also be impacted, given that this high-speed railway line is a key border crossing between Madrid and Lisbon that would boost regional development and combat depopulation. Not to mention that both countries are hosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

Due to the Spanish Government's lack of commitment and given that this railway line is part of the TEN-T core network, there is a need for EU-level action.

In view of the above:

1. What mechanisms does the Commission have at its disposal to enforce the deadlines for implementing the TEN-T?
2. Has the Spanish Government informed the Commission of its timeline for completing the Madrid-Lisbon high-speed railway?
3. Does the Commission think that the deadlines will be met?

Submitted: 3.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(22 November 2024)**

1. Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 ⁽¹⁾, Member States must take appropriate measures to develop the core network by 31 December 2030. However, this obligation is subject to the conditions of Article 8(5) which recalls that the implementation of projects of common interest depends upon factors such as the degree of maturity, compliance with both Union and national legal procedures, and the availability of financial resources.
2. The European Coordinator for the Atlantic corridor is in regular dialogue with the governments of Portugal and Spain and is currently discussing the terms of an implementing decision that will include indicative milestones for the implementation of the new Madrid-Lisbon line and will support the coherent priority setting of infrastructure and investments required. At the Iberian Summit of 23 October 2024, both Member States have reiterated their intention to meet the deadlines established in the regulation.
3. While the Commission is focused in making every possible effort to meet the 2030 deadline for the core network, delays are expected on some major cross-border projects in Europe due to technical and financial constraints. However, the notable progress on some of the sections of the line, together with the future implementation decision, are encouraging developments in view of meeting the 2030 target.

⁽¹⁾ Article 6 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1679>