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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.4.2026)

The Commission regrets the tragic loss of life following the rail accidents near Adamuz. In relations to the three questions put to it, the Commission recalls the following:

1. Under EU railway safety Directive (EU) 2016/798 (the Directive)¹, the responsibility for investigating railway accidents independently lies with national investigation bodies (NIBs). The EU Agency for Railways (ERA) can offer technical assistance according to Article 22(5) of the Directive and did so immediately. On that basis, ERA will observe and assist on the work of the investigative body CIAF².
2. Any decision concerning possible infringement proceedings in relation to the Adamuz rail accident is conditional on the conclusion of the ongoing investigation and on its findings. The Commission decided in March 2024 to close the infringement proceedings³ referred to by the Honourable Member because Spain had addressed the systemic weaknesses in the supervision and accident investigation processes following an agreed and supervised action plan with annual reporting to the Commission and ERA. ERA confirmed the significant progress during an audit in 2023.
3. The Commission will continue monitoring closely the situation while awaiting the findings of the CIAF investigation, to determine if accident in Adamuz could have as a causal factor a flaw in the actions taken within the abovementioned action plan. The Commission will react, if necessary, using the appropriate instruments of the Rail Safety Directive (EU) 2016/798 to guarantee the highest levels of safety and ensure that each actor fulfils its responsibility towards it.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/798/oj/eng>.

² Comisión de Investigación de Accidentes Ferroviarios.

³ Press release concerning the case: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/memo_19_462.