

EN

P-000432/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.5.2026)

On 14 May 2024, Spain applied for European Regional Development Fund support to upgrade the Madrid – Seville high-speed railway line, defined as a major project under Article 100 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013¹. In the application, Spain noted that, although originally built according to advanced technical standards in 1992, the line had become technologically outdated ‘*desfasada*’ compared to other Spanish high-speed lines, without this entailing though any reduction in the safety standards of the service being provided. The Commission assessed the application and agreed on 24 June 2024 to co-finance the proposed upgrades². The assessment did not declare the Madrid – Seville line obsolete but rather recognised the need for infrastructure renovation, as described in the application.

Prior to authorising EU co-financing for major projects, the Commission meticulously reviews the information provided by the Member State under Article 101 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, including environmental and cost-benefit considerations, alongside other legal provisions such as State aid.

Regarding questions two and three, the honourable Member is invited to consult the response to question E-000254/2026³. As the Commission referred in it, ‘both *ex ante* and *ex post* controls are applied to ensure compliance with EU standards in projects funded by the Cohesion Policy Funds and the Recovery and Resilience Facility’. However, the primary responsibility for preventing, detecting and correcting irregularities lies with Member States, which are required to establish effective management and control systems, including anti-fraud measures. Regarding judicial investigations, the Commission monitors developments closely and takes action when appropriate.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1303/oj>.

² https://spain.representation.ec.europa.eu/noticias-eventos/noticias-0/la-comision-aprueba-110-millones-de-euros-en-fondos-de-la-politica-de-cohesion-para-modernizar-la-2024-06-24_es.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000254-ASW_EN.html.