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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.10.2026)

According to Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 (Regulation)¹, the Zaragoza–Teruel–Sagunto railway is part of the trans-European transport (TEN-T) core network and must therefore comply with the infrastructure requirements and implementation deadlines applicable to the core network by 2030.

These include infrastructure requirements related to the speed, capacity, interoperability and operational performance laid down in the Regulation, subject to any duly justified derogations, or specific technical exceptions provided for under Union law.

The Commission is not aware of the specifications of the 2026 feasibility study provisionally approved by the Spanish authorities. If the feasibility study envisages only Iberian-gauge solutions with design speeds of 100–140 km/h and does not demonstrate how the preferred option would meet the requirements of Regulation, this may raise questions as to the compatibility with TEN-T requirements for a core network section.

At the same time, the mere fact that a feasibility study has been provisionally approved does not in itself respond to the question of compliance. What matters is whether the final project design, planning and implementation ensure that the infrastructure will satisfy the requirements of the Regulation.

The Commission would thus not be in a position to confirm (projected) compliance solely on the basis of such a feasibility study. It would need to receive and examine the project documentation in detail and, where appropriate, seek clarifications from the Spanish authorities.

However, if Spain planned to deviate from the TEN-T requirements for this section, an official exemption request would need to be made to the Commission in accordance with the Regulation provisions.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj/eng>.