

**Question for written answer E-008655/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Reinhard Bütikofer (Verts/ALE), Angelika Niebler (PPE), Herbert Reul (PPE) and Martina Werner (S&D)

Subject: Mergers in the rail industry

The merger of the two Chinese rolling stock manufacturers CNR and CSR on 1 June 2015 to form the company CRRC resulted in the establishment of what is by far the biggest player in the industry worldwide. The Commission explained in its answer to a parliamentary question dated 8 March 2016 why under current legislation it was unable to register any objections to this merger (Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 on Mergers).

The Commission's answer also reveals that it is examining how transactions which could affect competition in the EU but do not meet the turnover thresholds in the Merger Regulation should be handled.

In its resolution on the competitiveness of the European rail supply industry (RSI) (2015/2887(RSP)) Parliament asked the Commission to 're-evaluate the market definitions and the current set of EU competition rules to take into account the evolution of the global rail supply market' and to identify 'how these definitions and rules would need to be updated to address the problems of mergers on the global market, such as the CNR-CSR merger, and to allow for strategic partnerships and alliances on the part of the European RSI'.

1. What changes has the Commission made or arranged since then in order to be able to react to mergers that could affect competition but whose turnover is below the threshold set in the Merger Regulation?
2. What steps has the Commission taken in response to the demands made by Parliament in the aforesaid resolution on the rail industry, and what measures are being planned?