

**Question for written answer E-003899/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Access to border stations to facilitate cross-border transport

The EU has understood that cross-border rail transport needs to be facilitated, in particular to combat climate change. However, the red tape involved sometimes causes persistent bottlenecks, even when the infrastructure is available.

For example, the need to obtain dual approval to operate between the border stations of two countries has been holding up passenger trains between Hendaye (France) and Irun (Spain) for months now.

Similarly, the requirement of proficiency in both languages is preventing the Paris-Portbou night train from reaching the Spanish border station in Portbou.

1. Can the Commission carry out a study to identify the problems with accessing border stations?
2. Can it look into whether it would be appropriate to reinstate the UIC agreements, which guarantee such cross-border exchanges, for border stations?
3. Furthermore, in the context of the revision of the directive of 23 October 2007 on the certification of train drivers, can it see whether border stations could be included in the exceptions regarding language levels?

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