

**Question for written answer E-004809/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE), Paulo Rangel (PPE), Lúcia Pereira (PPE), José Manuel Fernandes (PPE), Álvaro Amaro (PPE), Maria da Graça Carvalho (PPE)

Subject: Portugal's railways

The general objective of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network is the functioning of the internal market and the strengthening of economic, social and territorial cohesion, and, in particular, to allow for the seamless mobility of persons and goods, ensuring accessibility and connectivity for all regions of the Union. On its rail network, Portugal uses the Iberian track gauge, as opposed to the European track gauge, and Article 13 of the regulation lists migrating to the European nominal track gauge as a priority for the promotion of projects of common interest.

Can the Commission say:

Does the revision of Regulation 1315/2013 include the possibility of funding for the Iberian gauge across the whole network?

What technological solutions are in place to prevent Portugal from becoming a rail island in Europe so that it can be fully integrated into Europe's rail networks, and what arrangements are in place for cross-border rail connections with Spain, in particular concerning migration to the European gauge to standardise information systems and railway electrification (voltage)?

Does it believe that Portugal, as a peripheral country, should change the international railway lines designed to support the logistical conditions and passenger movements for the European gauge?