

**Question for written answer E-014670/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Tiziana Beghin (EFDD)**

**Subject:** Adverse effects on citizens' mobility in the province of Imperia following a decision taken by the Ligurian regional government

In 2011 the European Union, together with the Liguria Region and the Carige Foundation, provided EUR 5 000 000 in funding for the public transport company RT Imperia, to purchase five hydrogen buses. The buses have never been used because of the failure to build a hydrogen refuelling station, but represent an ongoing cost due to the need for maintenance.

The withdrawal of the Carige foundation led to a downsizing of the project, reducing the number of hydrogen buses from five to three.

In order to avoid having to return the EU funding, the regional government has allowed the company to reroute EUR 2 000 000 with which 14 diesel buses were supposed to be purchased, to the three hydrogen project buses.

This decision will have serious consequences on public mobility in an area in which the shortage of public transport vehicles is seriously affecting their ability to circulate.

1. How was it possible for the company to secure EU funding for this project and what checks did the Commission carry out before deciding to finance it?
2. In accordance with which EU rule were funds from the Fund for Underutilised Areas (FAS) used for the purchase of hydrogen buses pursuant to Article 6(1) of Regional Law 62/2009?
3. What is the Commission's view of the rerouting of this funding and the consequent negative impact on citizens' mobility and on the efficiency of the service?