

**Question for written answer E-015618/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Train crash in Santiago de Compostela (July 2013)

On 24 July 2013 a tragic train accident took place in Santiago de Compostela. A train derailed on a high-speed line, which had been co-financed by the EU, leaving 81 dead and 144 injured.

The case was recently closed with only the driver having been deemed liable, ignoring numerous anomalies such as the lack of a European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) or similar system.

We believe that the investigation into the accident was not independent, either before or after the Commission opened an infringement procedure in 2013. Issues of liability are now coming to light in relation to the opening of the line for traffic without putting in place the necessary security measures.

We believe there have been breaches of Directive 2004/49/EC on safety on the Community's railways, specifically the provisions of:

- Article 21, concerning the independence of investigating bodies;
- Article 22, concerning informing and involving victims;
- Annex III, point 2, concerning risk evaluation and implementing risk control measures whenever a change of the operating conditions or new material imposes new risks on the infrastructure or on operations (changes to the project, ERTMS).

In light of this information, what will the Commission do to address these potential breaches?