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Dear Mr. Dzieciolowski,

Following our fruitful exchange of views that took place last 31 January, I address you in order to raise once again my worries about the future of the Pajares railway bypass in Asturias (Spain).

As you may know, the central government in Spain recently has tabled the general budget bill for 2017. Among the announced measures there has been an inclusion of a proposal for a change concerning the Pajares railway bypass that could lead to a breach of EU Law, especially Regulation EU No 1301/2013 as well as Regulation EU No 1315/2013. This change would entail a modification of the category of the railway (from an Iberian track gauge to an International track).

According to our information, this decision promoted by the current government (ruled by PP), could mean that the Pajares bypass will be just oriented to passengers traffic instead of a mixed traffic (passengers and goods). Apart from the negative consequences for the development of our rail freight network, this decision doesn't seem to fit with the rules of the Cohesion Policy.

Therefore I would like to know if in case this decision was taken both the European Commission and the OLAF would launch an investigation and eventually claim for a retroactive payback of the EU funds dedicated to this construction due to an incorrect use of them.

I look forward to hearing news from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Ángela Vallina de la Noval (MEP -GUE/NGL, Izquierda Unida)