

Amendment 1

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica

Proposal for a regulation

Annex 1 – part 16/23

Annex 1 – part 17/23

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Add high speed for rail freight and passenger to the following to the extended core network:

Bilbao (ES)-Santander (ES)

Or. en

Justification

The improved railway section between Santander and Bilbao is closely linked to the execution within the deadlines of the core network (completion in 2030) of the cross-border connection between the Basque Country and the south of France, i.e. the connection with Europe as a priority part of the Atlantic corridor. Both projects are of an important strategic nature and any delay will have very negative effects on the climate change objectives set by the EU.

The Cantabrian coastal regions suffer a stagnation, partly motivated by a deficient railway network that harms its competitiveness. The new upgraded Santander-Bilbao railway section would have an impact of 11,500 million euros, with a transfer of passengers of 123%, an increase in goods transport of 150% and significant reductions in CO₂.

The Santander-Bilbao section takes into account the need to reinforce the connexion with Ireland after the BREXIT. The existing maritime connections between Bilbao and Santander and the Irish ports linked to the railway section proposed will offer a great opportunity in logistical terms. 60% of the goods exported from Cantabria go to the Ebro Valley or to Europe via the Basque Country.

There is a daily economic and social relationship with the Basque Country in such a way that there is a de facto Santander-Bilbao conurbation which causes a great imbalance in terms of journeys.

The average daily intensity of vehicles on our motorways is as follows:

Bilbao: 52,000

Castile: 11,000

Asturias: 9,000

The current railway (via metrica) is not an alternative since it takes 3:15 to cover the 100 km that a car covers in an hour. In addition, the galibos prevent the efficient transit of goods.

As a result, 98% of this traffic is carried out by road, with the Santander-Bilbao motorway being one of the three most congested in Spain.