

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2800/08  
by Sepp Kusstatscher (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: TEN project 1: BBT - 2008 report of the Austrian Court of Auditors

The latest report of the Austrian Court of Auditors (2008) contains harsh criticism of the planning and preparatory work for the Brenner Base Tunnel. BBT-SE is said to have rashly decided, on the basis of drafts of funding models, to commence construction of the BBT test tunnels without waiting for secure financial commitments.

The Court of Auditors in Vienna also notes that the transport policy framework conditions for the shift of traffic from road to rail should have been determined prior to the start of construction work. In addition, the necessary conditions, such as technical project preparation and the requisite permits, were not in place when it was decided to begin construction.

- Is the Commission aware of this report of the Court of Auditors?
- What action does the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties and, consequently, guarantor for compliance with the legislation, intend to take?