

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

*Committee on Petitions*

20.02.2009

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition 0735/2008 by Remo Castagnieri [and] Alberto Paolo Veggio (Italian), bearing 154 signatures, on the Lyon-Turin rail link (Valle Susa)**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioners consider that the European Union should halt its EUR 671.8 million funding of studies and activities in connection with the Lyon-Turin rail link, on the grounds that it is incompatible with European legislation. They state that the Italian government is not honouring agreements to consult regional and local authorities and citizens.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 21 October 2008. The Commission was asked for information (Rule 192(4)).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 20 February 2009.

#### The petition

The petitioners call on the European Commission to halt the EUR 671.8 million funding awarded to the project for studies and works in connection with the construction of the new Lyon-Turin rail link. They consider that the Italian Government is not honouring its undertakings in respect of public consultation with regional authorities and citizens.

#### Commission's comments on the petition/legal analysis

At the request of a number of local authorities, the Italian Government decided on 10 December 2005 to establish a technical observatory (Osservatorio Valle di Susa) which was set up under the auspices of the Prime Minister. The Observatory opened a phase of

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consultation with the local area. The Observatory's remit was to carry out technical studies of harmonisation-related aspects. The weekly meetings of the Observatory gave all the players involved a chance to meet and discuss the issues raised by the project in an open and transparent forum.

The Observatory completed its work (December 2006 – June 2008) by drawing up a position paper (the Pracatinat Agreement), dated 29 June 2008, setting out a recommendation to the 'Palazzo Chigi Institutional Working Group'. The main points of this document take the form of:

- recommendations on transport policy (modal shift, local and regional transport) and recommendations on the preliminary studies and materials drawn up by LTF (Lyon – Turin Ferroviaria) and in particular a decision to undertake works in compliance with the 'European timetable'.

The 'Palazzo Chigi Institutional Working Group', meeting on 29 July 2008 in Rome, endorsed the Observatory's findings.

On this basis, the Government, in agreement with the Piedmont Region and the Mayor and Province of Turin, stressed the need for 'unitary governance' of all the project's studies and for ongoing consultation with the local and regional authorities during this phase. The Intergovernmental Commission (CIG) was also asked to request LTF to update the dossier presented to the European Commission to take account of the findings of the Pracatinat Agreement. Lastly, it was decided that the procedures for drawing up an overall draft plan (*Progetto Preliminare*) for the new Lyon-Turin line should take an interdisciplinary approach, with input from local authorities.

The Commission considers that the Community funding cannot be halted on the basis of the request set out in the petition in question. The funding requested by the Italian State satisfies all the criteria in the call for proposals, and the selection of projects that the Commission proposed financially to support under the 2007-2013 multi-annual programme was evaluated in compliance with the rules in force and in a fully transparent way.

The authorities involved in the evaluation and selection approval procedure were consulted and gave their assent (the Member States within the Management Committee and the European Parliament).

It should also be borne in mind that the petition dates back to May 2008 and does not therefore take account of progress made with the dossier as described in part II above.

### Conclusion

The Commission does not share the petitioner's point of view; on the contrary, it welcomes recent progress with the Lyon-Turin rail link.