



30.1.2015

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 2135/2013 by Alda la Rosa (Italian) on the environmental damage that would be caused by the building of the Broni-Stroppiana motorway in Lombardy (Italy)

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner protests against the construction of the Broni-Stroppiana motorway in the Lomellina Pavese area. He points out, in particular, that the section between Castello d'Agogna and Stroppiana would run through the Risaie della Lomellina special protection area. The Risaie della Lomellina, which contains natural springs, is one of the largest wetland areas in Lombardy and is regarded as being of special natural importance, owing in particular to the fact that it is home to one of the most significant local and migratory bird populations in Italy, and indeed in Europe as a whole.

The construction of the Castello d'Agogna-Stroppiana section of the motorway would jeopardise this ecosystem and would breach Directive 79/409 on the conservation of wild birds.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 5 September 2014. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 30 January 2015

The Commission's observations

The petition does not provide adequate information and details on the issue and does not

indicate which specific provisions of EU environmental legislation have not been respected and on what grounds. The technical attachments that are mentioned in the text of the petition have not been provided to the European Commission.

From the information available on the website of the national environmental authorities, it appears that the project is still under assessment¹ and that specific integrations have been requested.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of Council Directive 92/43/EC² of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) define the procedure to be followed by national authorities before authorising plans or projects likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site (Site of Community Importance or Special Protection Area). National authorities are responsible for evaluating whether a project is likely to have a significant impact on the species and habitats for which the site has been designated and, if so, for following the procedure defined in the Directive before approving the project.

Conclusion

Based on the information contained in this petition, at this stage the European Commission cannot detect any breach of EU environmental legislation by the Italian authorities.

¹ <http://www.va.minambiente.it/it-IT/Oggetti/Info/542>.

² O.J. L206 of 22.07.1992.