

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0372/01  
by Reinhold Messner (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Extension of the concession granted to Autostrade SpA

Further to my earlier questions, E-2293/99<sup>1</sup> and E-1457/00<sup>2</sup>,

1. Has the 'independent' committee responsible for managing the award of public works contracts in connection with the concession granted to Autotrade SpA actually been set up?
2. Is that committee truly independent and impartial, as required by the Commission, given that it appears to include two representatives nominated by ANAS (the Italian roads agency) and one by Autostrade SpA?
3. What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure compliance with the conditions laid down in its letter of 30 July 1998 to the Italian government if it transpires that the above information concerning the membership of this 'independent' committee is correct?
4. Does the Commission agree that the extension of the concession, on the grounds that it was necessary to cover the cost of works that had not been paid for and other contentious issues, was in fact an administrative act accorded in exchange for investment in new infrastructures?

It should be noted that the concession provides for new investment of around ITL 8400 billion, 5600 billion of which are allocated to upgrading the whole Florence-Bologna section (34 km), although the government agreements of July 1996 authorised only the construction of the Aglio-Canova section and the improvement of the Florence (North) – Florence (South) section.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C225E of 8.8.2000, p.89

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