

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1702/03
by Laura González Álvarez (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Environmental impact of the Arenas-Molledo and Pesquera-Reinosa sections and Molledo-Pesquera sub-section of the Cantabria-Meseta motorway (Cantabria, Spain)

The projected route of the Cantabria-Meseta motorway, and in particular of the Arenas-Molledo, Pesquera-Reinosa and Molledo-Pesquera sections, has caused great concern among local inhabitants, citizens' associations and the public at large, owing to its lack of respect for the countryside and especially for the Saja National Reserve, and to the destruction of an large proportion of the area's historical heritage. Numerous irregularities have occurred, such as the continuation of work on the Arenas-Molledo sub-section before the Directorate-General for Environmental Quality and Assessment had reached its decision, and the occupation of land without the requisite compulsory purchase order.

The environmental impact assessments conducted have lacked rigour, and the construction of the Corrales-Arenas de Iguña section of the motorway has had serious repercussions, including the obliteration of Monte Fresneda, the Muriago watercourse and a Roman road.

Is the Commission aware of this situation? What measures will it take to guarantee the application, in the case in point, of Community legislation on the environment, and more specifically of Directive 85/337/EEC¹ on environmental impact assessments and Directive 92/43/EEC² on the protection of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora?

¹ OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40.

² OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.