

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3562/03
by Giacomo Santini (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Automatic renewal of concession for the Brenner motorway

The issue of the automatic renewal of the concession held by the Società Autostrade del Brennero is on the agenda once again now that Commissioner Bolkestein has found against it. In view of the fact that the long dispute over the matter, which has gone through a whole series of advances and setbacks, has yet to be settled, can the Commission state:

1. whether it would agree that, in view of the A22 motorway's strategic position, a derogation from the Community rules on invitations to tender should be granted?
2. how it can justify the unfavourable opinion delivered in respect of the A22 when the automatic renewal of similar concessions has in the past been authorised on more than one occasion in Italy on the basis of Interministerial Directive No 283 of 20 October 1998?
3. whether it considers that it can place its trust in the current operating company, which has set aside a large amount of money to fund the building of the Brenner Base Tunnel and, on this basis, whether it would agree to reconsider the Italian Government's proposals that automatic renewal be authorised?