

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0259/04
by Giacomo Santini (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Introduction of tolls on state highway 47, Valsugana

The autonomous province of Trento has announced that it intends to introduce road tolls on state highway 47 in Valsugana, Italy, within the territory under its jurisdiction.

The tolls would affect only passenger and international haulage vehicles.

Given the existing problems with road links between the Veneto region and the Brenner pass and the bureaucratic and political delays hampering the completion of the A 31 Valdstico motorway, which mean that Valsugana is the natural transit route for those wishing to travel from the Veneto and Friuli regions to the Brenner pass and to the centre of Europe, and bearing in mind the recent Commission guidelines on road pricing, will the Commission say:

1. whether it is aware of this measure?
2. whether it agrees that this provision represents a serious restriction on the free movement of goods and persons?
3. whether there may be infringements of the criteria for state aids and of the rules of competition?
4. whether it considers this measure dangerous in terms of the reaction it may provoke on the part of the authorities in other areas traversed by Highway 47 or other major traffic arteries?