

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1391/04  
by Michl Ebner (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: The Toledo-Ciudad Real-N IV motorway

The Toledo-Ciudad Real-N IV motorway is part of the Spanish infrastructure plan for 2000-2007. The stretch of motorway from Toledo to Ciudad Real is part of the Andalucía motorway that is intended to reduce the volume of traffic on the N IV. This project was published with the corresponding derogations in a government act on 19 April 2000. This document also lists other alternative routes for the main stretch.

This project is also to be built in an important conservation area and could therefore inflict serious damage on the surrounding environment and biological diversity in this area.

One example is the stretch from Caleruela to Ciudad Real, which has an alternative route that goes through the eastern hills of Toledo. Another example is the stretch from Sierra de Alcudia to Sierra de la Garganta, whose alternative route goes through the Sierra Morena, the Valley of Alcudia and other areas which are not conservation areas, but which are recognised under Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>1</sup> as habitats for species such as lynx, wolves and many types of Iberian birds. This area is one of the best preserved forests in the Mediterranean. If a motorway were to be built through here, there would be extremely damaging consequences for the natural environment.

1. Can the Commission say whether it is aware of the current situation in this area?
2. Is the Commission of the opinion that this is a project of special public interest?
3. Can the Commission say what steps it intends to take in order to guarantee that the Spanish government complies with Directives 92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC<sup>2</sup>?
4. Can the Commission indicate whether this motorway could be built in another area where the environment would be less harmed?
5. What can the Commission do, together with the Spanish authorities, to guarantee that the least possible amount of damage is done to this conservation area?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 103, 22.4.1979, p. 1.