

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5277/07
by Adriana Poli Bortone (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Reopening of the 'Corridor 8 Secretariat'

The 'Corridor 8 Secretariat', based in Bari, which was set up in 2004 to assist the Member States in identifying and developing infrastructure projects along the Corridor and in defining the relevant financial arrangements, has now been inactive for some months.

The development of the TEN networks, in this case the Apulia-Balkans axis, will provide a boost for the Mediterranean economy. There are plans to widen and modernise the Naples-Bari motorway, which may strengthen and enhance exchanges - not only trade - between Italy and the countries of eastern Europe.

Can the Commission say:

1. whether it is possible to ascertain the causes of the standstill affecting the 'Corridor 8 Secretariat' and hence who is to blame;
2. whether the Italian section of Corridor 8 is still one of the Commission's priorities and how long it will take to complete;
3. whether the Italian Government, in particular under Prodi's leadership, has ever applied for fresh funding for Corridor 8 and for the relaunching of the Secretariat?