

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5693/07  
by Josu Ortuondo Larrea (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Key link between Vitoria (Spain) and Dax (France)

With regard to priority project No 3 under the trans-European transport networks, i.e. the 'Atlantic link' connecting Madrid, Valladolid and Vitoria (Spain) to Dax (France), the Commission's coordinator for the trans-European networks, Étienne Davignon, states in his recent activity report dated 19 July 2007 that construction is lagging behind vis-à-vis the Community decisions for the trans-European transport networks and, specifically, the most recent one, Decision No 884/2004, according to which the key link from Vitoria to Dax should be completed by 2010, and, furthermore, that a six-year gap exist between the respective actions of the French and Spanish governments.

The coordinator thus considers that special attention needs to be paid to the Vitoria-Dax stretch, including the following measures:

- definition by joint agreement of the crossborder route, with priority activation of all works required for its construction;
- guarantees that there will be a solution to ensure network continuity until the new crossborder infrastructure is in place.

In addition, all are aware of the importance, for further progress on coordination and joint action, of the existing Franco-Spanish intergovernmental commission for the Atlantic branch, despite the fact that the state of progress of the project suggests that this commission has so far done very little.

This commission should include representation, with speaking rights even if not with voting rights, of the regional government of the Basque country and the Aquitaine regional council, in their role as the executive bodies of the border regions concerned.

Can the Commission state, in view of the above, what measures it intends to take to ensure compliance with the Community decisions regarding the Atlantic branch of priority project No 3 under the trans-European networks and the swiftest possible action to complete the Vitoria-Dax key link?