

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6502/07  
by Vito Bonsignore (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Infrastructure funding for the Turin-Lyons high-speed rail link

According to press reports, after having approved funding worth € 671.8 million for the Italian-French section of Corridor 5, the Commission – particularly the Commissioner with responsibility for transport, Jacques Barrot – now wishes to check that it is being used. Commissioner Barrot takes the view that, if the work does not go ahead, the Commission has a duty to use the funds for other infrastructure projects instead.

The main problem is the fact that local inhabitants are opposed to the rail link through the Susa Valley and the construction work it will require.

The Italian Government should have submitted the plans by July 2007, but those plans have still to be finalised.

Furthermore, the government has put forward an alternative route that has yet to be approved by the local authorities and local inhabitants of the Susa Valley.

Given the above, would the Commission state:

1. what plans have been submitted and what documentation still needs to be submitted for the final go-ahead to be given for the performance of the works, and what the deadlines are for submission of that documentation by the Italian Government;
2. whether construction of the Italian section of Corridor 5 is still a priority on the list of projects eligible for Commission funding in the period up to 2013;
3. what infrastructure projects it intends to fund if the deadlines for the performance of the work on the Italian section of Corridor 5 are overshoot?