

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6221/08
by Luis de Grandes Pascual (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Inclusion of the E-9 European route in the trans-European transport networks (TEN-Ts))

The E-9 European route (Paris-Barcelona) is of vital importance for the road transport connections of the Principality of Andorra, since it is the only land transport link between that country and Spain and France.

This link appears of even greater importance if it is recalled that Andorra is without rail or air connections and that the nearest major cities are Toulouse in France and Barcelona in Spain.

Andorra is not an EU Member State, but it concluded an association agreement with the Community on 28 May 2005. Article 6 of this agreement states that the parties shall work together in the area of the trans-European transport networks (TEN-Ts) and shall promote the examination of projects of joint interest that promote conservation of the environment in the Pyrenees.

Given that 2010 will see the revision of European Parliament and Council Decision No 884/2004/EC¹ on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport networks, which sets out the 30 priority projects of European interest, it appears desirable to take account of the above-mentioned link and include it in some of the priority projects, for the reasons that follow.

Andorra's main economic and trade links are with Spain and France. Both of those Member States, despite the progress made in crossborder communications, continue to feel the lack of a high-capacity communications link for the central Pyrenees. Here one may recall the disastrous state of affairs each winter at the Somport tunnel. In the light of these circumstances, can the Commission provide information on the state of its plans regarding the E-9 route? Can the Commission state whether a Community action could be launched for the development of this route?

¹ OJ L 167, 30.4.2004, p. 1.